

Fearless leaders of youth

A teacher and a Boy Scout official
fight discrimination with lawsuits.

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SF doc has pot

And this guy has papers
(of the scientific kind).

pages 20-21

**Movement under construction**

In the rehearsal studio with the
ODC/San Francisco dancers.

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 12 • 25 March 1999

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 27 years

Sisters' party is nun too soon, say two supes

by Cynthia Laird

A controversy that erupted last week over plans to close one block of Castro Street on Easter Sunday for the 20th anniversary party by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence shows no signs of slowing down. Most recently, Monday, March 22, two members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors proposed the group change the date of the party.

The debate, prompted by an editorial and guest commentary in *Catholic San Francisco* likening the Sisters to neo-Nazis, is set to continue this Monday, March 29. During that meeting the board is expected to take action on newly-appointed Supervisor Alicia Becerril's resolution asking that the Sisters move their April 4 party to Sunday, April 11. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco is opposed to the celebration, which it says is an "attempt to ridicule both the profound solemnity of the Church's celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord and the dignity of the life and work of Catholic religious women."

The board voted 8 to 0 on March 1 allowing the closure of one block of Castro Street for the Sisters to hold their anniversary party. At that time, there was no opposition to the plan. Last Monday, Becerril said that the board may have acted too hastily. Board President Tom Ammiano denied that charge, saying there was a "very extensive public hearing" on the matter.

"I was frankly stunned at how quickly it [the vote] occurred," Becerril said. "It is still my sense ... that the

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Still shaking their old habits

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence at 20

by Mark Mardon

It was on "Holy Saturday," the day before Easter, in 1979 that San Franciscans first witnessed a bunch of guys dressed as clown-faced nuns strolling in their midst, tossing around blessings like so much confetti. Ken Bunch still recalls the time well, since he was the guy who supplied the faux nuns with their wimples.

Bunch had arrived in San Francisco the previous year, and had impulsively packed a half-dozen costumes from a theatre group he had once launched in the midwest. Those costumes turned out to be propitious. "I was sitting around bored," says Bunch, "and I said to my roommate, Fred Brungard, 'Let's go out and do something different.' We were really tired of the 'Castro clone' thing. And I said, 'All I have are these nun habits I brought from Iowa — let's throw 'em on and go out and do something crazy, some street theater.'

Three men in all did themselves up in white-face, put on

page 18 ▶



Jane Philomen Cleland

Hundreds attend 'Equality Begins at Home' in Sacto

by M.R. Richards, B.A.R.
capital correspondent

The look was mostly festive, even celebratory, for the Equality Begins at Home rally in Sacramento last Sunday, March 21.

There were banners, vendors, dogs, babies, music, balloons, and booths and speeches on the west steps of the Capitol. A few steps to the left, however, the mood changed as somber lines of men and women moved past pieces of the quilt laid out on the grass. Some wept silently as they read the panels' heartrending messages, written by lovers, mothers, siblings, and friends.

Earlier in the day there was a wreath-laying ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Capitol grounds. Gay and lesbian veterans heard Bates Bottig, currently president of the board of Sacramento's Lambda Community Center and a re-



Rick Gerharter

Gays and lesbians converge on Sacramento last Sunday for 'Equality Begins at Home' events.

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Trial begins in Mendocino County killing of gay man

by Lois Pearlman

A trial for the first of two defendants in the May 2, 1998 murder of a gay man from Aptos began this week at the Mendocino County Superior Court in Ukiah. The first to stand trial, Chris McCoy, a 19-year-old Ukiah resident, is accused along with Rick Fernandez, 24, of Calpella, of murdering Louis Pearson, a 44-year-old man who was visiting the Ukiah area after attending a Billy Cub gay social club event in nearby Lake County.

McCoy and Fernandez both face sentences of life in prison without the possibility of parole if they are convicted of first-degree murder while committing a robbery.

The Mendocino County District Attorney's office expects McCoy's trial to last two to three weeks. Fernandez's trial will be scheduled to begin soon afterwards.

According to police reports and testimony at a preliminary hearing last fall, McCoy and Fernandez arranged to meet Pearson

to sell him drugs after the met him on the street in Calpella. Along with a third man, Calpella resident Keith Pruitt, 25, they drove to an isolated spot along the shore of Lake Mendocino in two separate cars, where they took Pearson's money, an altercation occurred, and Pearson was, allegedly, beaten to death.

A local resident found Pearson's body the following morning, dumped over the edge of an embankment. His 1983 Honda was found nearby.

Pearson died of blunt trauma wounds, according to testimony by the coroner who performed an autopsy on his body. A four-inch stick shoved through Pearson's nostrils and into his brain also contributed to his death.

Pruitt, who, according to testimony, left the crime scene with Pearson's money while Pearson was still alive, pled guilty to robbery and is awaiting sentencing.

According to reports in the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*, McCoy's attorney, Al Kubanis, is planning to prove that McCoy also fled from the scene before Pearson was killed, and that Fernandez committed the crime

alone. Fernandez, allegedly the victim of childhood sexual abuse by his father, was apparently infuriated when Pearson made sexual advances towards him during their drive from Calpella to the crime scene, according to reports.

But Mendocino County District Attorney Norm Vroman said his investigators have evidence to prove that both men participated in the attack against Pearson. In an interview Tuesday, March 23 he said his office has "a lot of newly discovered evidence" obtained by re-interviewing witnesses who saw McCoy "immediately after the event."

"In his opening statement even McCoy's attorney admitted that he [McCoy] was at scene," said Vroman.

The district attorney's office has said it is not trying the case as a hate crime because the statute which provides for the death penalty in the case of a murder with a hate crime enhancement does not include sexual orientation. But police have admitted that the beating could have been motivated by anti-gay feelings.

"We aren't saying this isn't a hate crime," Vroman said. ▼

Protest expected at gay 'wedding' Friday

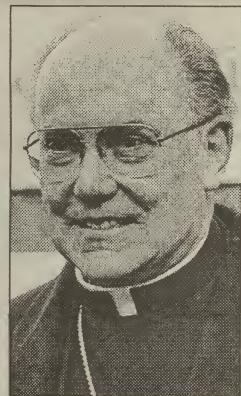
by Cynthia Laird

A record 190 gay and lesbian couples will participate in Mayor Willie Brown's annual "wedding" ceremony this Friday, March 26 at City Hall, despite an outcry by San Francisco Archbishop William Levada and a planned protest announced by Kansas homophobic minister Fred Phelps.

Mayoral aide Michael Colbruno told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the public is invited to attend the 6 p.m. ceremony.

The number of couples is more than have ever participated in the mayor's symbolic ceremonies in past years. In 1996, 163 couples registered for the ceremony and last year, 50 couples registered, with an additional 50 couples who renewed their vows.

The March 19 edition of *Catholic San Francisco* contained a piece written by Levada that was critical of Brown's event, and supported state Senator Pete Knight's initiative, slated for the March



Archbishop William Levada

now annual 'marriage' ceremonies for gay and lesbian couples at City Hall, I wondered whether to file the piece under 'March madness' or 'Lenten penance,'" Levada wrote. He went on to criticize recent gay rights advances.

The article in the Catholic publication is the second in as many weeks to criticize San Francisco's gay community; last week there were two pieces strongly opposed to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's planned street party to celebrate their 20th anniversary on Easter Sunday in the Castro. (See story, page 1.)

While the mayor suggested the Sisters might want to change the date of their party, he has no plans to back down from the wedding ceremony. "I am heartened by the response to my invitation for same-sex couples to come to City Hall and have their relationships honored and recognized by the city of San Francisco," the mayor stated.

Prior to the ceremony, the couples will enjoy a private catered reception. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

AIDS update confab starts



Jane Philomen O'Leary

Former Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders, left, received a standing ovation Wednesday, March 24 when she addressed the National AIDS Update Conference in San Francisco, as former city Health Director Dr. Mervyn Silverman and speaker Sophia Gruskin looked on. Elders challenged attendees to move away from complacency surrounding AIDS issues and to "educate, educate, educate in schools, churches, and communities."

Gay man beaten unconscious in hate crime outside Castro Theater

by Mark Norby

A 24-year-old gay man who lives in the Castro District of San Francisco was chased down and beaten unconscious by three young men Friday, March 19, around 12:10 a.m. near the Castro Theater, according to the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) and the city's patrol special police.

Bradley Davis, who was discovered unconscious near the theater by Officers Lisa Frazer and Maria Escobar, reports that after hearing the three men yelling homophobic insults and racial slurs, he approached them and told them to stop. The suspects then gripped Davis, ripped off his shirt, and began chasing him across Castro Street. Davis ran across the street and fell to the ground near a van parked next to the curb fronting Ultimate Yogurt. The suspects began kicking and hitting Davis repeatedly while he lay in the gutter, leaving him bleeding and unconscious.

Witnesses to the incident said the suspects had been lingering on the 400 block of Castro for about half an hour, taunting people saying, "What are you looking at faggot?" and other derogatory comments.

The suspects were last seen running into the theater parking lot. Officers Frazer and Escobar found two of the suspects trying to flee in a silver Honda. A third suspect was found hiding underneath a parked car, and two others were detained further away from the scene, but were later released due to insufficient evidence.

Davis was taken to Davies Medical Center where he received several stitches for lacerations and a head wound. He was released from the hospital later that morning.

Booked for aggravated assault and hate crimes were Ban Doc Im, 21; Henry Sai Hung Kwong, 19; and Thang Cao Truong, 18. All three suspects are San Francisco residents. Im was booked as the instigator of the assault and con-

fessed earlier this week to the crime, stating to police that he beat Davis "because he didn't like the guy [Davis] because he was gay," according to reports from SFPD Officer Sherman Ackerson.

Pending further investigation of the incident, police will ask the district attorney to prosecute the case as a hate crime, in addition to the charges of aggravated assault. ▼



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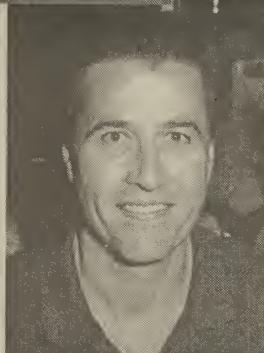
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A lady and her mattress



Minstrel Timothy Johnson sings to a packed house during a benefit performance of "Once Upon a Mattress" at Finocchio's on St. Patrick's Day. The musical, a story of bumbling royalty looking for romance, raised funds for the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center.

SF gay man sues Yellow Cab after ride to hell

by Mark Norby

Attorneys Paul Wotman and Tyler Shaw of the San Francisco Law Offices of Wotman and Kors announced Monday, March 15 the filing of a lawsuit against Yellow Cab Cooperative, Inc., alleging damages committed against a gay man who claims to have hailed a Yellow Cab taxi in downtown San Francisco on November 12, 1998.

The lawsuit, filed in San Francisco Superior Court on behalf of openly gay, longtime San Francisco resident Dehue Marshall, alleges that Marshall was harassed, intimidated, threatened, discriminated against, assaulted, battered, defamed, and denied full and equal accommodation by Yellow Cab because of Marshall's sexual orientation. Also sued is Yellow Cab driver Patrick Callahan, who, according to the suit, called Marshall "faggot" and "cocksucker," after Marshall



Plaintiff Dehue Marshall and his attorney Tyler Shaw

shall asked Callahan not to smoke while driving the cab. Taxicab regulations promulgated under the San Francisco City Charter and the municipal police code prohibit a taxi driver from smoking while a passenger is in the cab.

The lawsuit also claims that Callahan said, "Get out of here faggot," and subsequently threatened to pepper spray Marshall if he refused to get out of the cab. After Marshall got out of the cab Callahan allegedly struck him three times with the cab door as Marshall stood next to the vehicle. The lawsuit asserts that Callahan further threatened Marshall, stating, "You should be glad I'm working or I would be taking you on in a different way. You should be afraid of me." Callahan then grabbed and twisted Marshall's arm, according to the allegations, and accused Marshall of attempting to rob him.

After Marshall complained about Callahan to Yellow Cab,

Callahan allegedly lied to investigators and accused Marshall of soliciting Callahan for sex, a charge that Marshall adamantly denies.

Marshall stated, "I have taken hundreds of cab rides in San Francisco, and never encountered such bigotry."

Yellow Cab did not respond to the Bay Area Reporter by press time, and Callahan could not be reached for comment.

The suit alleges denial of Marshall's civil rights, including the right to be free from threats and violence on the basis of his sexual orientation, and his right to enjoy the full and equal accommodations and services provided to the public by Yellow Cab. The suit seeks compensation for emotional distress, statutory penalties, attorney's fees, and punitive damages.

"This case presents allegations of anti-gay conduct in the workplace for which Yellow Cab and Callahan will be responsible," stated Shaw. ▼

HEAL SF hosts AIDS dissident Wednesday

by Cynthia Laird

HEAL San Francisco will host a meeting this Wednesday, March 31 to endorse the controversial theory that HIV does not cause AIDS. The event will feature Michele Rolfe, director of HEAL Monterey, who has avoided AIDS drugs and prophylactics since she tested positive for HIV antibodies 11 years ago and continues to lead a healthy and productive life. The meeting, entitled "Positive Thinking: How to Save Your Own

Life," is free and open to the public, although donations are requested.

According to a statement from the group, "Long-term thrivers are a group that have been largely ignored by the media and science, yet they are only examples of people who are surviving HIV without aggressive treatments." ▼

The meeting takes place from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Park branch library, 1833 Page Street, between Cole and Shrader in the Haight.

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Gay man assaulted by Muni driver settles for \$150K

by Dennis Conkin

A gay man who was the victim of a June 1996 anti-gay attack by a Muni driver riding a bus has received \$150,000 to settle his personal injury claim against the San Francisco Municipal Railway.

The settlement was approved by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and signed by Mayor Willie Brown in February, and was forwarded to Controller Ed Harrington's office in early March, according to the clerk of the board's office.

In the incident, Sinisa "Sonny" Vukic was riding the Sutter line bus with his lover and the pair



Wardy Joubert

briefly kissed as Vukic's lover left the bus by the back door.

According to eyewitness testimony, Muni driver Wardy Joubert, who was a uniformed passenger on the line, called the pair "faggots," made anti-gay statements, repeatedly slugged Vukic, and grabbed and injured his leg. ▼

Stop AIDS to give oral instruction Friday

by Mark Norby

San Francisco's Stop AIDS Project will hold a free community forum on oral sex this Friday, March 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Eros, the bathhouse for gay and bisexual men. Organizers have dubbed the event "All About Dick" and plan to answer the stickier questions on going down: Give or receive? Spit or swallow? And do new HAART treatments make oral sex safer?

A panel of expert doctors from leading AIDS research institutes, including Kim Shafer of UCSF, will address the meaning of oral sex to gay and bisexual men, the co-factors of oral HIV transmission in San Francisco and how to make oral sex safer. The forum promises to be a great opportunity for men who are feeling anxiety or have questions about their own risk and to hear what other men are thinking and doing. Eros is located at 2051 Market Street. All men are welcome to attend. ▼

Correction

The photo caption on page 4 of the March 4 B.A.R. was incorrect. Sheba was elected Empress XXXIV on February 27; T.J. Istivan is Emperor XXVII, A.N. (After Norton).

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Vukic suffered spinal disk problems related to the incident and had severe difficulty practicing his physical therapy profession after the attack.

Joubert was later arrested and charged with felony hate crime and assault and battery charges and eventually fired from Muni.

The anti-gay incident drew intense media attention and Muni later came under fire for failing to transfer Joubert from contact with the public until he was tried on the charges. Muni transferred Joubert to a desk job only after press scrutiny.

Although prosecutors pressed for a four-year state prison sentence in the case, Superior Court Judge Jack Berman sentenced Joubert to a mere three months in San Francisco County Jail.

Joubert served only seven weeks of the sentence, was placed on three years probation, and ordered to perform 200 hours of community service. ▼

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Holy \$#!+!!!

San Francisco, mercifully, manages to avoid the Catholic-versus-gay warfare that breaks out in Boston and New York every year around St. Patrick's Day, but it's become evident that some Northern California Catholics envy the blood-sports of back east. The radical Roman Catholic lobby in San Francisco has inserted itself where it clearly does not belong, by opposing commitment ceremonies for couples who legally cannot marry and by attempting to rewrite the civic calendar according to the archbishop's whim. (For those stories, see pages 1 and 2.)

By now most gay San Franciscans are aware that Archbishop William Levada – widely known as "Darth Vader" – and his minions have tried to prevent the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence from celebrating on Easter Sunday. Levada's henchmen have even accused the Sisters of being similar to neo-Nazis, which is preposterous and offensive, and have successfully generated enough controversy to waste a lot of local legislators' time on the matter. The newest member of the Board of Supervisors has proven herself miserably unfit for her new job, by suggesting it "isn't too much to ask" of the Sisters for them to postpone their 20th birthday/anniversary party; apparently the newly-appointed supe feels religious calendars take precedence over all else, which should strike fear into the heart of anyone who isn't a Catholic lemming. (It must be said that there are Catholics who know better than to buy into Levada's argument, and we don't intend to offend them with any comments we make about their religion. We *intend* to offend those who blindly follow the leader down the path of homophobia, sexism, and religious intolerance.)

Levada personally blazed one trail last week by denouncing the third annual city-wide domestic partner commitment ceremony, which is scheduled for this Friday. He acknowledged in the editorial that ignited this fire that he wasn't sure what to call what he had wrought. We suggest calling it as it is: religious cowardice.

In the name of Christ, archbishop, there is much to do: clothing the naked, housing the homeless, feeding the hungry, lobbying for needle exchange programs, pushing for living wages, and advocating for an end to violence, land mines, environmental rape, and any further reruns of Lucille Ball's version of *Mame* on AMC. Those are things that will help humankind. Pissing and moaning about committed couples and clowning drag nuns *will not*.

However, it's so much easier to complain than act, and much, much less personally dangerous. We suspect Levada knows he's failing to follow the very real instructions contained in the Bible, so he's creating these diversions to give the impression he's working. He probably hopes to make people (and maybe even God, if he's that arrogant) believe he's just too darn busy battling those pesky homos to do the work that needs to be done. And the laziest and most cowardly in his flock will find it an attractive prospect to join him in continued inactivity: rather than spending Easter Sunday – which they say is the holiest day of their calendar – doing holy things, the whole lot of them can spend it hating their fellow humans, judging, and generally facing away from the path that Jesus suggested.

There are, in case they care, plenty of other options for those who wish to celebrate a holy day with redemptive acts: they can start by acting to end the spiral of violence that killed Matthew Shepard, Billy Jack Gaither, and gay people here in Northern California, by eliminating hate-inciting rhetoric from their own vocabularies and forbidding its use when they are within

earshot. The need for a de-escalation of violent anti-gay vilification is obvious, with stories of bashings appearing throughout this issue (see pages 2, 3, 4, 5...) and similar cases in every gay newspaper around the country.

The can also take an active interest in humanity by helping to feed the destitute on Easter: Tenderloin Tessie, as always, needs help feeding the masses at the Unitarian Church (now that's a church!) from 4-7 p.m. that Sunday. Before then the Tessie volunteers need donations of hams, desserts, Easter candy, etc., and would be grateful for any help provided – by Catholics, Sisters, gays, straights, or members of the animal kingdom, for that matter. Any interested parties can – and should – call A.L. Allen at (415) 621-1169 to offer services. We think that would be a great way for celebrants at the Sisters' event to cap off their Easter.

One other great event that readers might want to enter on their calendars: Queer Nation (*remember it?*) will hold a peaceful kiss-in outside St. Mary's Cathedral this Sunday, March 28, starting at 11 a.m. It's at 1111 Gough Street, and we'll see you there. ▼

Editorial



What's flying under the mayor's radar?

by Seth Watkins

On February 2, Mayor Willie Brown was asked about the national boycott of United Airlines organized by San Francisco-based Equal Benefits Advocates and endorsed by the Human Rights Campaign and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund last December. The boycott was called in response to United's lawsuit attempting to overturn San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance, which requires companies doing business with the city to offer the same benefits to domestic partners of employees that they offer to married spouses of employees.

The mayor claimed ignorance of the boycott, but did loudly complain about United's new policies restricting the size of carry-on luggage. Hizzoner's garment bag had to be checked. On February 18, United Airlines announced that storage bin shelves were being extended by four inches and bin doors will now be curved. Great joy has been expressed because the mayor can once again carry on his garment bag.

Pity the lesbian and gay employees of

United who are still waiting for the company to acknowledge that their relationships with their partners exist, and that they have the right to equal benefits. If only the mayor had been aware of their plight.

Instead, on March 26, the mayor will conduct yet another marriage ceremony to highlight the fact that lesbians and gay men cannot legally marry. This symbolic gesture will no doubt help the mayor nail down crucial votes for his upcoming re-election bid.

I would like to educate the mayor about the boycott, but first I want to mention my own decision to make a personal sacrifice in order to uphold the boycott and to highlight the importance of supporting equal benefits. As a queer youth activist, I had been horrified to hear about the brutal beating of Matthew Shepard and immediately began to organize a response to the tragedy. One of my efforts involved creating a get-well card for Matthew from the people of San Francisco. The card, which included hundreds of signatures, became a grievance

card for his family upon Matthew's death.

United Airlines offered to fly me with the card for free to represent the city at the funeral. The offer was turned down because of the boycott.

How could United pay for me to go to Matthew Shepard's funeral when they do not allow their lesbian and gay employees time off to attend their lovers' funerals?

For your information, Mayor Brown, bereavement leave, family medical leave, and travel benefits are all that the courts currently require United to offer the domestic partners of their employees.

The boycott could end tomorrow if United had enough compassion to extend these non-cost benefits.

All the boycott asks is that you not fly United unless you have no other choice. If you must fly United Airlines, Equal Benefits Advocates requests that you wear a button or sticker showing your support. Buttons and stickers can be ordered at the EBA website, www.equalbenefits.org or picked up at Main Line Gifts at 516 Castro Street. ▼

Guest Opinion



Demo in agreement with GOP

I am in agreement with Wayne Friday [March 11] and, to my shock, the Log Cabin Republicans on the issue of the death penalty for "heinous hate crime murderers."

Keep up the fine job you are doing and I will continue to enjoy reading your editorials.

Michael Milliken
Co-founder and treasurer, Stonewall Gay & Lesbian Democratic Club (of Dallas);
Board member and webmaster, National Stonewall Democratic Federation

No more marching to Auschwitz

Thank you for stepping forward to support the death penalty for the murderers of Shepard and Gaither. I have long supported the death penalty and I am sickened that national gay organizations would sacrifice our people to pander to the so-called "liberal" lobby. There is nothing liberal or enlightened about marching dutifully to Auschwitz. We are the targets of murderers and there is a lot more murder of gays going on than what we hear reported in the media. If we cannot fight back for ourselves, why should anybody else raise a hand to defend us? This is not about "he made a pass at me." This is not about "temporary insanity." This is about deliberate, premeditated torture, mutilation, and vicious heinous killing. If convicted, the consequence is death. The Jasper, Texas jury got it right. The gay lobby in their cushy offices in Washington D.C. got it wrong.

Janice Van Cleve
Seattle, WA

Tell a tuber

The recent dramatic rise in unprotected sex among gay men should give our city's health department reason to reconsider its position on bathhouses. As bizarre as it may seem to some, having bathhouses in our city might actually reduce the amount of unsafe sex. Let me explain.

In the only serious study of its kind ever done, a European research project found men who frequent bathhouses practiced safer sex more often than those who did not frequent such facilities. This study was heralded amongst AIDS researchers and, to the best of my knowledge, there is no data whatsoever to counter its conclusion.

To build upon the academic research mentioned above, let's also consider some common sense realities. Bathhouses provide an ideal venue for safer sex education. An audience of sexually active gay and bisexual men can be targeted with safer sex supplies, printed materials, educational announcements, workshops, peer pressure, and good modeling in a manner impossible in other gay venues.

To use a local example, Steamworks in Berkeley keeps health educators on staff for one-on-one and group safer sex counseling. HIV and STD testing is available. Announcements educating patrons about safer sex practices are delivered over the public address system regularly throughout the day. Safer sex supplies such as condoms are free and available throughout the facility.

Printed safer sex materials are scattered throughout and, unlike in most bars and sex clubs, they are adequately lit so you can actually read them. Numerous safer sex workshops and presentations are free to patrons. Add to all this the fact that a bathhouse provides a venue in which gay men can actually talk to each other about their status and safer sex guidelines in a way not likely in most sex clubs and it becomes all the more bizarre that our city continues its ban on bathhouses.

While I'm sure the intentions of our health department have been good, the fact is gay men are having unprotected sex in ever increasing numbers and new educational paradigms must be implemented. Allowing bathhouses in our city, and demanding that such facilities offer aggressive, pervasive safer sex education, is likely to ultimately reduce the level of HIV transmission.

Sex is not the enemy. An archaic safer sex education methodology is the enemy and if we do not change these methodologies to correlate with the realities at hand then we are doing our community a great disservice.

Race Bannon
San Francisco

Tool shedding

Strange de Jim claims not knowing if he was "so simultaneously inspired and appalled" in a theater. ["Hard to fathom," Mailstrom, March 4.] This was prior to seeing Jeff Stryker's tool. I wonder if Strange is joking, having not seen good theater at all, or making honor to his name. Pity!

George Pappas
San Francisco

Common sense, not common stench!

This is in response to Josie Lynn's letter ("Ventilation, not legislation," Mailstrom, March 11):

If you spent more time reading a newspaper, instead of stinking up everyone's air, you might not make such a ridiculous statement that secondhand smoke does not kill. It does kill. This is a proven fact. Have you ever heard of lung cancer or throat cancer? I know of very few bars where car and bus exhaust is piped in, so I doubt you or other bar patrons will die of that first.

You have obviously never had anyone you know die of lung cancer, or have to breathe using an oxygen tank, all because they smoked. You have obviously never known anyone that had to breathe through a hole in their neck, all because they smoked.

You do not hear complaints from non-smokers? Perhaps all that smoke is affecting your hearing. It is a filthy disgusting habit. When you walk by a non-smoker we notice that you stink when you talk to a non-smoker we notice your filthy yellow teeth, and your foul smokers breath. When you stand next to me on a crowded Muni bus I am forced to smell your stench. And it stays with me. You call the lawmakers idiots? Who is the idiot paying near \$4 a pack or more a day to kill themselves and others around them?

If you are so damn concerned about what we are "teaching the young ones" I suggest you support a ban on any kind of tobacco advertisements at all. Smoking kills, this is fact.

I smoked for 29 years, and I have never been in a bar, anywhere in America, Canada, or Europe that was well ventilated. Even outside at bars like the Eagle, one can still smell it. I was smart enough to quit, but I rarely go to a bar, mainly because I have to walk through all you idiots huddling on the sidewalk stinking up the place just so I can get in.

How silly to see you all in the rain getting sopping wet, just so you can take another year off your life. I am sick to death of you whiners bitching about how they can't smoke in bars or restaurants anymore. Go ahead, kill yourselves, but do not force non-smokers to deal with it. Non-smokers are not harmful to your health by not smoking. I have been smoke-free for five months.

Hey, maybe you're right Josie! Maybe they should open "Smokers Only" bars, where you can all congregate behind closed doors and stink and smoke yourselves to death. At least then I could walk on the sidewalks again, instead of having to walk around your stench in the street.

Scott A. Bloom
San Francisco

Private clubs for smokers?

Josie R. Lynn and fellow slaves of the cigarette industry may feel doubly oppressed as the non-smoking 85 percent try to blow their poison fumes out of the bars and into the streets.

Yet if the cigarette victims had enough self-respect and solidarity within their 15 percent minority, they could organize private nonprofit nicotine user groups (NUGS) to operate private bars admitting members only. These NUGS could seek, and probably get, exemptions from anti-smoking laws. Just as a few nonprofit private clubs are allowed to discriminate by gender or religion (which profit-seeking businesses cannot lawfully do). To paraphrase Joe Hill, before he smoked his last fag: "Don't whine, Organize!"

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

Old habits die hard

With regard to Josie Lynn's letter, drag on this: People who go into bars can choose what and how much they drink. The harm and discomfort of smoke inhalation is forced on you. The best vent system doesn't help much when sitting next to smokers.

With regard to the examples we are setting for children when making people stand outside the bar to smoke, it's simple: My need to breathe comes before your craving to smoke.

Paul Bartleman
San Francisco

Fan mail from L.A.

I just wanted to say that I find your paper very informative in reporting important news concerning the gay community. You do not find such a newspaper in Los Angeles. All we have are magazines dedicated to circuit parties, buff bodies, and sex, giving news minimal in-depth reporting concerning the gay community. L.A.'s papers will cry foul but who cares: just look at any of the mags and all you see is partially naked bodies - nothing else.

I wish Los Angeles had a paper such as yours. I always look forward in receiving the Bay Area Reporter at Different Light Bookstore in Los Angeles - thanks.

George M. Esparza
Los Angeles

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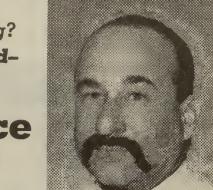
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Negative reinforcement

This letter is in response to Edward Gonzales's letter titled "Wasted Resources," published in your February 25 issue. In his letter, he accuses three Latino HIV prevention programs of misusing funds to plan a demonstration at the Stud, and he objects to such programs providing services to illegal immigrants since "they overload our health services without contributing to the system."

It was of surprise that the *Bay Area Reporter* would publish a letter to the editor with misinformation. In the first place, none of the HIV programs mentioned used any funds from government or private foundations to organize and launch a protest at the Stud. Secondly, Latino Encounters is a research project which has never had meetings to date. The perception that these programs used public or private funds in this effort is totally unfounded and unsubstantiated. No staff person was ever contacted by anyone as to confirm this allegation.

What is of issue to the Latino community and San Francisco citizens is the degradation of people of Mexican descent by the event called "Wet Back Night" which contained activities that further reinforce negative stereotypes of Mexicans despite the written complaints brought to the promoters attention during last year's event and again this year. The San Francisco Human Rights Commission has received formal complaints of discrimination concerning the promoters and owner of the Stud as a result of having the event this year. The commission plans to continue hearing testimony and has been requested to investigate and be a mediator.

Gonzales's letter is a good example of how such an event reinforces a sense of intolerance and negativity toward particular groups. Understanding this dynamic, many San Francisco citizens were offended and needed to express their protest at the night of the event which reinforced negative stereotypes and profited by the degradation of a person's ethnicity.

The perception that undocumented individuals, termed as "illegal," have no rights is rooted in the anti-immigration sentiment that has been quite popular in recent years. It is the policy of the city and county of San Francisco not to deny any person the right to health services, regardless of their citizenship or status in the U.S., and it is also a right provided by the U.S. Constitution. Apparently, many persons, including Mr. Gonzales, are unaware that San Francisco has been declared a sanctuary which protects the rights of immigrants, regardless of migratory status. Mr. Gonzales's statement that he is a Mexican-American and his opinions about "illegals" draws attention to the complex nature of this controversy.

Eduardo Morales, Ph.D.
Director of El Ambiente
Principal Investigator of Latino Encounter
Professor of Psychology, CSPP-Alameda

Brenda Story
Director of HIV Services
Mission Neighborhood Health Center

Jose Ramon Fernandez Peña, MD
Director of Health Education and Prevention
Mission Neighborhood Health Center

Naughty, naughty, NAATA

[The following was sent to Brian Lau at the North Asian-American Telecommunications Association.]

I am a member of National Asian American Telecommunications Association, and I am appreciative of NAATA's annual production of the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival. However, allow me to raise a concern regarding one of NAATA's corporate sponsors: United Airlines.

Just last week, Frameline – producer of the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and an annual co-presenter of programs at the Asian American Film Festival – suspended its relationship with United Airlines. Likewise, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus announced that it would not renew its relationship with United for the 1999 season.

As you may know, United Airlines (headquartered in Chicago) is suing San Francisco in an attempt to dismantle domestic partner benefit requirements, such as bereavement leave, for employees of companies doing business with the city. While the legislation in question is designed to protect the employees of companies such as United, the net effect of a successful lawsuit by United could be to weaken current and future domestic partner benefits for employees of all companies doing business with San Francisco, and have negative nationwide implications as well.

NAATA should consider joining Frameline and other community-based organizations in voicing its disapproval of United's anti-diversity corporate stance. A loud "united" voice on this issue will not only support the many United Airlines employees based in San Francisco, but will ultimately help people from all communities enjoy equal job opportunities and benefits.

Robert Camyre
San Francisco

Nuns of the above

I read with disgust and disbelief comments San Francisco Archdiocese spokesperson Maurice Healy made comparing the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence to neo-Nazis. Such a misdirected and unfair comparison is not only a reflection of his ignorance, but shows a lack of tolerance for a very misunderstood group of individuals whose mission is rooted in charity, compassion, giving, and many generous deeds done for people living with AIDS (PLWA).

I am a PLWA residing in Seattle, Washington, where we also have an "order" of the Sisters. Admittedly, they may seem outrageous to many outside the gay community and come across as irreverent in their habits, costumes, and parades of Catholic institutions and traditions. However, the make-up, bangles, costumes, theater, and off-humor are simply a veneer and a superficial facade when you realize the good these kind people have done for those of us living with AIDS. Incidentally, the pageantry, opulence, mysticism, and flamboyant traditions of the Roman Catholic Church might also seem "outrageous" to those not in the "Catholic fold."

The Sisters were one of the first organized groups to hold fundraisers for AIDS-related community service organizations throughout the nation; and have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars towards AIDS-related causes and outreach programs. They have performed countless volunteer acts of charity, goodwill, and community organizing in the face of AIDS.

For the archdiocese's spokesperson to compare the Christ-like kindness, tolerance, and charity of the Sisters to neo-Nazis is simply outrageous, un-Christian, and wrong. It saddens me, I don't mind telling you.

Jesus Christ, in his goodness and charity, would be cheering the Sisters on in their mission to help alleviate the suffering of those with AIDS, in my opinion. I suggest you get your facts straight before you verbally spew such careless and vitriolic rhetoric aimed toward a group whose mission is based on altruism and comforting the sick, just as Christ did during his time on earth.

I suggest you quit taking your Church "traditions" and your false-piety so seriously, Mr. Healy. Is it any wonder the Catholic Church is mocked and made fun of ... you make yourselves such an easy target! Your ridiculous protest is akin to Jerry Falwell's suggestion that the children's BBC-TV's *Teletubby* character, Tinky Winky, promotes homosexuality. I suggest to you both are preposterous and canard.

I'll pray that you recognize the Christ-like generosity, goodness, tolerance, and charity that the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence represent. Don't let their theatrical talents blind you to their sincere and good causes, Mr. Healy. If you really knew who the Sisters were, you'd be less quick to judge, I'm quite certain.

John J. Koch
Seattle, WA

Ugly Catholic tastes

I am outraged that the Catholic Church would even think of closing down a street party. Once again, we see history repeating itself: Holy Mother Church, after 2000 years, is still drunk with power. To compare this even with neo-Nazis and the Jewish Passover is extremely inappropriate and absurd, given that the Catholic Church turned her head the other way during the Holocaust and only recently issued an official "We're sorry."

The church has the blood of millions of victims on her hands. After the rise of Christendom, the pagans of Western Europe were killed if they did not embrace this new religion of "love and forgiveness." During the Middle Ages, countless people who rejected the Catholic faith were murdered. Gay men and lesbians were classified as "heretics" and were tortured and burned at the stake, along with anyone else who dissented from official church teaching. When the church brought her message of "love and forgiveness" to the New World, she massacred indigenous peoples if they did not submit. For the last 2000 years, the church has not had to answer to anyone for its barbaric behavior and superstitious beliefs.

On Easter Sunday, as the Bay Area Catholics participate in ritualistic cannibalism, let the Sisters and their friends have their street party. May everyone have a wonderful holy day!

Jim Lenartz
San Francisco

Bibliophile's biblio file

High praise for Douglas A. Rankin's *Queen Jane's Version: The Holy Bible for Adults Only*, the just released new uncensored translation and paraphrase of the traditional Bible of Christendom. This new translation really exposes the pious political and religious leaders' priest-craft for what it authentically is. I am just waiting for some national political or religious leaders to say some derogatory comment about the book so it can rise to the top of the best-seller list.

Douglas A. Matley
San Francisco

POLITICS

State voters still back Bill Clinton

by Wayne Friday

A month after his acquittal in the impeachment trial by the U.S. Senate, and after more than a year of a nasty sex scandal that would have toppled heads of governments in many parts of the world, President **Bill Clinton**, according to the respected Field Poll, has a job approval rating in California of a whopping 68 percent, compared to a disapproval rating of only 28 percent. In fact, Clinton's job approval rating in this politically powerful state has never been higher.

Even so, his personal popularity has taken a beating. When 1,005 California adults were asked during the February poll about the president, 68 percent said they approve of his job performance, and 76 percent believe he will likely continue to be effective until his term ends – but 36 percent of the Democrat and Republican registered voters said that they don't like Clinton, compared with 38 percent who said they do. Also, a majority of those asked, 52 percent, said they feel the president is a "dishonest" person.

A Field spokesperson said that he found Clinton's job approval rating to be "remarkable," in light of the public view that the president as a man "has declined so precipitously." And clearly, that sustained high job rating among Californians has not gone unnoticed by the White House. Last month, Clinton kicked off a fundraising campaign to win back control of Congress in San Francisco and this Saturday, March 27, he'll join prominent Democratic leaders Governor **Gray Davis**, Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, and others and give a speech at the state Democratic Convention in Sacramento, where he's expected to make a strong case for the election of Vice President **Al Gore** in next year's presidential election. Neither Gore, nor his only announced Democratic opponent, former New Jersey Senator **Bill Bradley**, are expected at the weekend confab.

Politics and people

While some political observers continue to voice concern that the implementation of district election of supervisors next year – the super will be elected in the city's newly formed 11 supervisorial districts – could mean that the number of gay and lesbian supervisors might be diminished, an even better argument could be made that instead of the current three queer superes sitting on the board, four gays and lesbians could be on the board after next year's first district elections. Incumbent Supervisor **Mark Leno** will be favored to win in District 8 (Castro/Noe Valley); incumbent board President **Tom Ammiano** will be favored to keep his seat in District 9 (Mission/Bernal Heights); incumbent Supervisor **Leslie Katz** should be a favorite to win in District 6 (SOMA/Tenderloin/Hayes Valley), where she's reportedly planning to move; and a strong lesbian or gay candidate such as Board of Education Pres-

ident **Juanita Owens** could run a possibly winning campaign in District 5 (Western Addition/Haight/Cole Valley/Inner Sunset). In all 11 districts, a candidate must win a simple majority of the votes cast in the district (50 percent, plus 1) or face a runoff election the following month between the top two finishers in the November general election.

Ammiano, Owens, Leno, Assemblywoman **Carole Migden**, city Treasurer **Susan Leal**, **Michael Barrett**, and **Bob Ross** are among those hosting a cocktail reception Tuesday, April 6 for Feinstein at her home to kick off her re-election campaign by her gay and lesbian supporters. (Tickets: \$500, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; call **Jeannie Robeson** at (415) 705-8711 for info.)

Contra Costa County District Attorney **Gray Yancey** met with gay and lesbian ac-

tivists last week to discuss the growing concern over hate crimes in that area.

One of the first of several gay rights bills to be taken up in Sacramento this session went down the tube last week. Assemblyman **Wally Knox** (D-Los Angeles) introduced AB 107 that would have expanded health benefits of all public employees to their domestic partners, which is already common among many corporations and local governments. Anti-gay activists in Orange County demonstrated outside the Santa Ana office of freshman Democratic Assemblyman **Lou Correa**, who apparently got cold feet and would not assure Knox his vote, which would have been the deciding one. Knox decided to delay indefinitely the hearing and vote on the measure.

Sacramento Bee writer **Dan Walters** pointed out that what happened to the Knox bill clearly underscores what could happen to at least half a dozen other gay rights bills this year: the reticence that many Latino and African-American legislators seem to have about the issue – they don't seem to have the same commitment to gay rights that white liberals appear to have even though Assembly Speaker **Antonio Villaraigosa**, a prominent Latino, is leading the fight for the gay rights bills.

GOP problems continue as former Ku Klux Klan leader **David Duke** formally entered the race in the New Orleans area congressional race for the seat given up by former Representative **Bob Livingston**. Duke, who campaigns on a "white rights" platform, easily carried the district in an unsuccessful 1990 U.S. Senate bid and the Republicans worry he'll win the May 1 special election and will then appear again on the ticket with their presidential candidate in November 2000.

Nearly three months into his new administration, Davis is still enjoying a honeymoon with California voters: 58 percent of the state's adults approve of the job he has done so far compared with only 12 percent who voiced disapproval. Republicans are no doubt still upset at losing the top job after 16 years.

With both Assemblymembers Migden and **Kevin Shelley** on his case, I don't think the future for San Francisco school boss **Bill Rojas** looks too rosy.

Incidentally, anyone who thinks Migden – already chair of the powerful Assembly Appropriations Committee – doesn't have big clout in Sacramento should know that Davis recently appointed her to his new Select Infrastructure Commission on roads and bridges, which will spend hundreds of millions of dollars. Migden was the only assemblymember to be named to the commission.

Doug Boxer, son of U.S. Senator **Barbara Boxer**, announced last week that he will not run for the Assembly seat in Marin next year when incumbent Assemblywoman **Kerry Mazzoni** is term-limited; Boxer, who lives in Southern California, is expected to return to Marin County and eventually go into elective politics. Marin County Supervisor **Hal Brown** now becomes the favorite to win the Assembly seat next year.

Meanwhile, when prominent attorney **Joseph Russonello**, who was the U.S. attorney for Northern California from 1982 to 1990 and is a well-known Republican, gave a speech last week at the Marin Republican Party's Lincoln Dinner, he commented on the dismal state of the party in California by saying that "if the Republican Party is not dead in California and the nation, it is most certainly mortally wounded." He chastised his party by saying, "In the past year, we were portrayed as a party made up of mean-spirited, self-righteous, hypocritical zealots more interested in self-aggrandizement and revenge than in doing the people's business."



Roberta Achtenberg

Forget about those printed rumors; my sources say it wouldn't be a smart idea to hold your breath until former Supervisor and current San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Vice President **Roberta Achtenberg** gets that gubernatorial appointment to the University of California Board of Regents.

Hey, don't be calling former White House pretty boy **George Stephanopoulos** a traitor for writing that tell-all book on the president; if he hadn't written the book surely someone else would have cashed in for the \$2.7 million. Besides, if the president's "head" intern can rack up millions by blabbing her talented mouth on the affair, why not Stephanopoulos, **Dick Morris**, **Dee Dee Myers**, or any of those who helped Clinton get his job in the first place?

And how was your week? ▼



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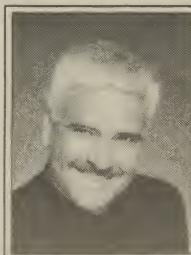
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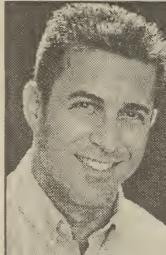
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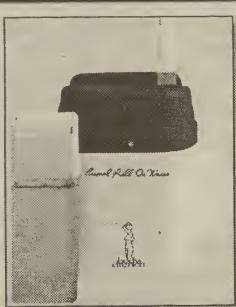
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Recognizing lesbian and gay marriage

by Jerry Weinstein,
GLAAD publications
manager

The Winter 1998 issue of the Union of American Hebrew Congregation's *Reform Judaism* magazine featured an impassioned and persuasive call to arms for the sanction of same-sex marriage within the Reform community. Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell's first-person narrative celebrated her union with her partner, affirming the positive strides that Reform Judaism has already taken to embrace the lesbian and gay community.

Reform Jews welcome lesbians and gay men into their synagogues; the seminary ordains and hires lesbian and gay rabbis; the Reform movement has supported federal recognition of gay unions and their families. Yet Elwell asserts that the ultimate step would be for the Reform movement to recognize that same-sex marriage is holy and that, like heterosexual marriage, it deserves to be blessed as a sanctified covenant.

Referring to the biblical sage Beruriah, Elwell argues that the sexual behavior described in Jewish texts was not imagined in the context of a long-term, loving relationship based on equality and mutual respect. She claims that Reform Judaism must therefore recognize that in its commitment to understanding and reforming Jewish tradition, it must include upholding the holiness of same-sex marriage.

Elwell concluded by saying it "is time for Reform Jews to celebrate the kedushah, the holiness of gay and lesbian marriages, and to welcome us and our families as a new source of strength into the house of Israel."

Point your browser to <http://uahc.org/rjmag/119se.html> to read this enlightening article, and thank *Reform Judaism* for publishing Elwell's commentary. Contact: Joy Weinberg, Managing Editor, *Reform Judaism*, 633 Third Ave., New York, NY 10017-6778.

Dawson's Creek continues to shine

In its March 3 and March 10 episodes, the WB's popular teen drama *Dawson's Creek* continued its exploration of the coming out process of series regular Jack McPhee (Kerr Smith). Jack's sexual orientation came into question in the February 10 episode, and he later came out on February 17.

Jack considered the possibility that he might be bisexual in the March 3 episode. His classmate Abby flirted with him and later approached him at a party, saying, "There's no such thing as 'gay' anyway. It's just this weird label people come up with to persecute the normal inclination to go both ways. We're all bisexual, don't you think?" Jack took this message to heart and later explained to his girlfriend Joey (Katie Holmes) that it was important for him to hear a message that "made me feel like I was just like everybody else." He continued to say that although

he kissed Abby, "I still would have stopped, [but] I guess the thought of being gay just seemed like such a lonely thought. I just don't want to end up alone."

Joey told Jack, "I think everyone feels alone and wants to be normal, [but] you're incredibly lucky to have people who support you. There's a whole other side of that," pointing to her own feelings of confusion about accepting her ex-boyfriend's sexual orientation.

In the March 10 episode, Jack found that he's not alone. He and Joey met a young photographer, Colin (Nick Stabile), at a local fair.

When Colin asked Joey to model for him, Joey took it as a sign of romantic interest. Jack accompanied her and assisted Colin, who asked him during the shoot, "So, are you two just friends?" and answering "good," when Jack told him yes. Jack left early, and Colin asked Joey, "Is your friend, Jack ...?" and then paused before concluding, "... dating anyone?"

Jack was surprised when Joey told him that Colin is gay. But he was shocked when he heard that she told Colin that Jack would meet him later that night. He vehemently refused to meet Colin, explaining later, "I'm sorry, Joey. I overreacted. Truth is, I'm just not ready. Not yet." When Joey met Colin to break the news, he told her it's probably not such a bad thing that Jack wasn't interested, noting that "I'm on the proverbial rebound. I just recently broke up with someone and we'd been friends a long time before that and now, I don't have the relationship or the friend. At the time, I could think of a million different reasons [why we broke up], and now I can't think of any. Does that make any sense?" In light of her recent break-up with Dawson, Joey told him, "Yeah, more than you can imagine."

Dawson's Creek has added even greater depth to what was already a compelling storyline, exploring the complexity of the process and difficulties of coming out, and bringing forth the basic ties that bind us all — regardless of our sexual orientation.

Please thank creator and executive producer Kevin Williamson and the WB Network for continuing to give Jack McPhee prominence and substance.

Contact Kevin Williamson, Creator and Executive Producer, *Dawson's Creek*, 12233 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 210, Los Angeles, CA 90064, e-mail via www: <http://www.dawsonscreek.com>; Jamie Kellner, President, WB Television Network, 4000 Warner Blvd., #34-R, Burbank, CA, 91522.

20/20 leads in coverage of gay parenting

On Friday, March 5, 20/20 presented a nuanced look at the implications of surrogacy and parenting for same-sex couples. Correspondent Sylvia Chase followed two gay male couples in the course of this segment. Will Halm and his partner Marcellin Simard, the first couple, have been pioneers. They have spent nearly 10 years researching and preparing for parenthood. It has taken them

nearly that long to find a surrogate mother to carry their child. During the broadcast, we watched the birth of their second child.

John and Paul, the second couple, expect the birth of their first child this spring. For them, the journey has not been as rough; still, both couples comment on the level of scrutiny leveled at them. Repeatedly they have been asked, "Why do you want to be parents?"

The segment also covers *Growing Generations*, the nation's first and only surrogacy firm specifically dedicated to serving the lesbian and gay community, and *Maybe Baby*, a company designed for same-sex parents who wish to start a family. Chase noted that while anti-gay organizations believe that same-sex parenting is bad for children, the American Psychological Association sees no evidence to support this contention. "We are just thrilled that we are going to be parents. That's all," offers one of the fathers, stressing the ordinary aspects of raising a family, rather than framing same-sex parenting as a political act.

Please commend 20/20 for its outstanding coverage on this supportive view of gay parenting.

Contact Victor Neufeld, Executive Producer, 20/20, 147 Columbus Avenue, 10th floor, New York, NY 10023-5900, fax: (212) 456-2969, e-mail: 2020@abcnews.com.

Charleston Gazette columnist links hate crimes with denial of freedom to marry

Julie Pratt's March 4 *Charleston* (West Virginia) *Gazette* column supported a proposed amendment to West Virginia's hate crimes statute, which would include sexual orientation and disability. But she doesn't end there, writing that "If we really want to stop hate crimes," Pratt reasoned, "we need to give some thought to the source of the hate." Pratt said that the Defense of Marriage Act being proposed in the state, which would ban same-sex marriages, encourages bigotry which "makes hate crimes possible."

She continued, "It is just plain preposterous to think that someone else's same-sex marriage could possibly threaten my own heterosexual one." Her most poignant observation circles back to hate crimes: "I'm convinced that all it takes for bigotry to prevail is for good people to do nothing." In throwing down the gauntlet, Pratt asked her readers to call their senators and delegates, to "ask them to stand up to bigotry."

Please thank the *Charleston Gazette* for publishing this sophisticated analysis of prejudice, and political call to arms.

Contact Dan Radmacher, Editorial/Op-Ed Page Editor, *Charleston Gazette*, 1001 Virginia St. East, Charleston, WV 25301, fax: (304) 348-1233, e-mail: letters@wvgazette.com.

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Calling on the huddled masses

by David Bianco

The phrase "openly gay athlete" brings to mind Martina Navratilova, Greg Louganis, Patty Sheehan, and other stars of individual sports such as tennis, diving, and golf. But years before any of these sports figures came out, two big-league ballplayers had already made gay history.

Football is a brutal game that is associated with "traditional" masculinity. But it's also teeming with homoerotic undertones. The players huddle, head to head, arms wrapped around each other. At the start of a play, the quarterback grabs the ball from between the center's legs. After touchdown, the players hug and pat each other's behinds.

Within this dual sphere of male aggression and bonding, David Kopay, a Catholic young man originally from Chicago, found a niche for himself. He played ball throughout high school and won an athletic scholarship to the University of Washington, where he was a halfback and co-captain of the Rose Bowl-winning team in 1964. At the end of his college career, Kopay was drafted as a running back by the San Francisco 49ers. Over the next 10 years, he played for the Detroit Lions, the Washington Redskins, the New Orleans Saints, and the Green Bay Packers. In his final years in the NFL, he was both a player and a coach.

At the same time, Kopay harbored a secret. "I always knew I was a bit different," he later said, "but I kept it kind of quiet." Kopay had his first gay sexual encounter with a Redskins teammate, tight end Jerry Smith (who died of AIDS in 1987). Though they had sex only once, the two remained friends and often roomed together when the team traveled. For a while, Kopay tried different ways of "curing" his homosexuality, even marrying briefly, but he eventually realized that he was and had always been gay.

Rumors about Kopay's homosexuality spread in the NFL. As his years on the playing field ended, Kopay found himself without any coaching offers and unable to get a sports-related job. "By the time I spoke out" about being gay, he recalled, "I really had nothing left to lose. ... I just had to do it."

One morning, Kopay opened up the *Washington Star* and spotted an intriguing headline: "Homosexuals in Sports." The story was an interview with an anonymous NFL player, who talked at length about his double life in sports. Kopay recognized the player as his former roommate and lover, Smith, and decided to offer the reporter an interview himself. But unlike Smith,



Past Out

Kopay agreed to let the paper use his name. On December 11, 1975, Kopay's story as a "queer football player," as he later put it, made headlines. He was the first professional athlete to come out publicly.

Kopay didn't experience any direct backlash from coming out, though he never got the coaching job he wanted and eventually settled for a job as a linoleum salesman. In 1977, he published his

autobiography, which became a best-seller. Kopay received positive letters from lesbians, gay men, and gay youth in particular, thanking him for his courage. He was also invited to speak at universities across the country. Although the movie rights to the book were sold, no film

was ever made. "I think the NFL maybe had something to do with discouraging anyone from doing a film version," Kopay speculated.

Around the same time that Kopay came out, another athlete was making a name for himself in that all-American sport, baseball. Glenn Burke, an African-American from Oakland, started playing professional ball for an L.A. Dodgers farm team in 1972 and became an outfielder for the Dodgers four years later. In 1977, he invented the "high five" during the Dodgers' final game of the season. When the Dodgers made it to the World Series, Burke reached the pinnacle of his career.

The Dodgers had high hopes for Burke. When he signed on, one coach said, "Frankly, we think he's going to be another Willie Mays." But playing for the Dodgers was complicated, because Burke felt like an outsider instead of part of the team. He was trying to hide his homosexuality, which he had known about for years.



David Kopay

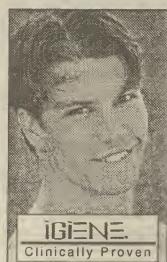
Burke developed a "too close" friendship with Tommy Lasorda, Jr., the openly gay son of the team's manager. In 1978, the Dodgers' vice president pulled Burke aside and suggested he get married like his fellow players. But Burke remained single and soon found himself traded to the Oakland A's.

Halfway through his second season with the A's, Burke was released from his contract for reasons he never understood. He suspected homophobia, but his modest batting average and few home runs may have also contributed. No other team picked up Burke's contract, and at 26 he found himself without a career and unprepared for a life outside of baseball.

Two years after his release from the A's, Burke confirmed the rumors of his homosexuality in *Inside Sports* magazine, the first baseball player to come out. "It was more important to be myself than a baseball player," he said. Burke became active in San Francisco's gay community, playing on a gay softball team and joining Black and White Men Together.

Still, Burke remained bitter about his firing and began taking drugs to cope, eventually becoming addicted. As he later put it, leaving baseball "took a chunk out of my heart." He died of complications from AIDS in 1995 at the age of 43. ▼

David Bianco, M.A. can be reached at DaveBianco@aol.com. For more *Past Out*, visit www.gay.net.



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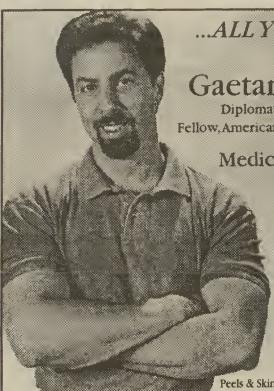
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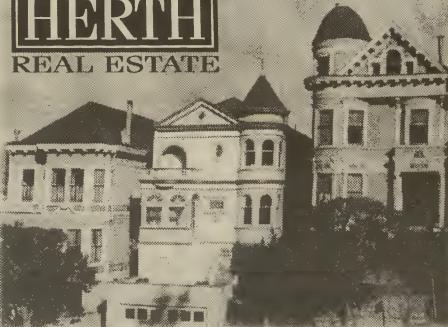
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by Mark Norby
and Ron McGlashan

Friday, March 12, 11 p.m., Geary and Polk: A young man was the victim of a stabbing at the corner of Geary and Polk streets after the suspect

had injected himself with speed (methamphetamine). The victim claims to know the suspect and gave a description to officers at the scene. The victim was transported to San Francisco General Hospital and treated for the stab wound by emergency doctors. Later that evening, a suspect was

taken into custody who matched the description given at the crime scene. The suspect told the officers that he had just "shot up" speed at the time of the crime, and upon background check officers discovered that the suspect is under investigation and is on a parole hold due to possession of a weapon.

ported previously in the B.A.R., a suspect who punched the owner of the Pendulum when the owner asked him to put out his cigarette was arrested last Monday in a similar incident at The Edge. In this incident, a patron

of The Edge who was standing outside the bar smoking was approached by a man who asked him for a cigarette. When the patron refused, the man punched him in the face, knocking him unconscious. Edge patrons and 15 kids

from LYRIC chased the man and cornered him near Noe and Market streets. The police were called and the suspect was arrested for assault. Booked for assault was Chris Gardner, born November 10, 1977. Gardner is suspected of other incidents of intimidation and vandalism in the Castro District. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sacramento

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tired Army veteran, address the crowd. "War is not a sound bite on the 11 o'clock news," Botting said. "When the fighting is over many don't get up, many don't get back home the way they left, many don't get home at all — and many of those are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender veterans."

After the wreath-laying, an interfaith gathering drew both the Reverend Mel White and the Reverend Elder Freeda Smith of the Metropolitan Community Church. However, it was the speech of the pagan representative, Michael Gorman, that moved the crowd to cheers and tears — as he affirmed "We have always been here, no matter how much the purveyors of persecution try to claim otherwise, no matter how much the architects of exclusion try to claim otherwise. All of the truly wise ones who have walked this planet know that we are a part of the scheme of things. We are and we always have been and integral pattern of the human tapestry. We are as natural in creation as the mountain goat, or the lilac or the ocean tide or the gangly colt or the Alpine edelweiss. We always have been. We always will be."

Back at the event on the west steps, which was sponsored by California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE), the music faded as San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano took the stage as master of ceremonies. Ammiano kept the lengthy program moving and lively, introducing a host of individuals and groups, including National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Executive Director Kerry Lobel; CAPE interim coordinator Randy Allgaier; Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa's lesbian and gay community liaison, Laurie McBride; Alan Lofaso, chief of staff for Assemblywoman Carole Migden; the Reverend Donald Fado; labor leader Sal Rosselli; blind veteran Tom Swann, who is seeking HMO reform; gay youth; and the Sacramento Men's Chorus, to name but a few.



Gay veterans placed a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Sacramento as part of 'Equality Begins at Home.'

The crowd, which ranged at times from 350 to 1,000 people, heard that Villaraigosa promised to ban discrimination against gays and lesbians. His bill, AB 1001, would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing and employment. Villaraigosa anticipates that, although similar legislation has been vetoed by Republican governors since 1979, Governor Gray Davis will sign AB 1001.

Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, (D-Santa Monica), whose AB 222 would prohibit harassment in schools based on sexual orientation, was also the focus of the day. Several speakers quoted a study that found 22.2 percent of lesbian and gay youth skip school each month because they fear for their safety on school grounds. Kuehl's bill would protect students from anti-gay discrimination and harassment by adding the words "sexual orientation" to the California Education Code which lists protected status.

Open the discussion

In an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Lobel spoke of the work still to be done. "We need to build coalition and that has to reflect the diversity in our movement," she said. "We need to talk

more to the constituents in the districts. We have to establish a base in every district and make a hard concrete effort. Politicians will change because the people who elect them want them to change. We have to re-educate people. Most people don't know that we don't have civil rights that we can be fired, lose our children, harassed — we have to open the discussion to a larger audience."

Ammiano said he finally has hope that the employment protections bill will be passed. "With those bills being vetoed by the likes of Deukmejian and Wilson — it's embarrassing," he told the B.A.R. "I finally feel like the end of the tunnel is near." He, too, spoke about the inclusion of people of color: "We have to start noticing the absences," he said.

Allgaier, told the B.A.R. he was pleased with CAPE's first effort as a statewide organization. "It's a great way for the organization to begin — by empowering and organizing people in a powerful and organized way like this," he said. "We need everyone involved in the achievement of our rights and in battling those who hate us," he added. Allgaier was also celebrating the fact that the full CAPE board has finally been installed. ▶

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- 24-week study
- Free lab tests and study medications

For people who have taken Crixivan or Viracept and have detectable viral loads

- Either Crixivan or Viracept plus Agenerase (141) plus Ziagen (1592) plus 3TC
- 48-week study
- Free lab tests and study medications

For people who have taken Crixivan or Norvir and have detectable viral loads

- Viracept +/- Fortovase plus Hydroxyurea plus NNRTI (Viramune or Sustiva) plus ddI or D4T
- 48-week study
- Free lab tests

2 short-term studies, compensation provided

- Peldesine, a promising new drug
- 6- to 8-week study
- Compensation \$325-375 at completion
- More than 300 CD4 cells

AG1549, a promising new nonnucleoside

- Only people now taking Viracept, 3TC and AZT/D4T
- 6- to 8-week study
- Compensation \$600 at completion

For people with CD4 cells between 50-300

- IL-2 (interleukin 2, T-cell growth factor)
- 4- to 6-year study
- Free IL-2 and lab tests

For people on antivirals with anemia

- Procrit (a red blood cell growth factor)
- Hemoglobin less than 11
- Procrit provided
- 16-week study

For people with advanced KS

- A new anti-angiogenesis drug SU5416
- Starves KS lesions
- May help individuals with KS swelling
- Compensation provided

HIVCare is a clinical research program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital. For more information, please call **Mark Bowers at 415-353-6215**.

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Saturday March 27, 4:00PM
Sunday March 28
Masses 8:30 am 10:00 am 6:00 pmSacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday March 31, All Day
8:00 am to 9:00 pm

† HOLY THURSDAY †

April 1, 7:30PM
Liturgy of the Lord's Supper

† GOOD FRIDAY †

April 2
The Way of Christ's Cross begins at Noon in the church and
proceeds through the Haight.Stations of the Cross
2:00 pm

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 7:30 pm

† HOLY SATURDAY †

April 3
Great Vigil of Easter 8:00 pm

† EASTER SUNDAY †

April 4
Masses 8:30 am and 10:00 am
No 6:00pm Mass

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Queer youth lobby Knight



Rick Gerharter

State Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale), author of the Knight initiative that defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman, met with students from his Southern California district during Queer Youth Lobby Day Monday, March 22 in Sacramento. Over 700 young people from throughout the state spent the day at the Capitol rallying and lobbying their legislators to support gay rights. Organizers were extremely pleased with the turnout.

MEN'S ASSOCIATED EXCHANGE

TGIF

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Hour

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Are you tired of the typical bar crowd? Are you looking for a way to meet some new friends? If so, then MAX's TGIF is perfect for you. Held the first and third Friday of each month, TGIF attracts nearly 400 gay men after work to the fabulously art-deco City Club to see friends, make new acquaintances, and jump-start the weekend. TGIF is also a great place to learn more about other MAX activities held this month. If you live in the South or East Bay, then join us for our TGIF in Sunnyvale on the second Friday or Walnut Creek on the fourth Friday of each month. There is a \$5 cover for non-members.

2nd Friday (4/9) MAXSouth TGIF – Pedro's Cantina, 3935 Freedom Way, Santa Clara (101 to Great America Pkwy, turn Right at the Marriott, Right again at second light onto Freedom Way)

4th Friday (4/23) MAXEast TGIF – Scott's Garden, Walnut Creek

Men's Associated Exchange (MAX) is the Bay Area's largest social organization for gay men, with more than 800 members. Every month, MAX stages 12-15 events, drawing more than 1,500 men. From sports and travel to parties and arts and entertainment, MAX has something for everyone. Call 415-442-1994 for a free newsletter and more information or visit MAXOnline.


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MEN'S ASSOCIATED EXCHANGE

WWW.MAXONLINE.ORG

If you're HIV+, CRIXIVAN may help you live a longer, healthier life.



■ New NIH research showed people taking CRIXIVAN in triple therapy lived longer and experienced fewer opportunistic infections.

- Recent year-long research conducted by the National Institutes of Health (Protocol ACTG 320) studied over 1,000 patients and confirmed results from another study.
- The group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. This reduction was significant enough for the NIH to recommend the study be stopped, so that all participants could benefit from the findings. Because the study was ended early, there was insufficient data to determine the statistical impact of CRIXIVAN on survival.

■ CRIXIVAN in triple therapy continues to hold serum viral load down below the limit of detection at the one year mark.

- In a separate, ongoing landmark study, over 90% of the 31 patients receiving CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their HIV serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks (as measured by available tests; the virus may still be present in other organ systems).
- Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one year mark.

■ CRIXIVAN is generally well tolerated.

- CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. There are side effects associated with protease inhibitors in general and CRIXIVAN in particular. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems. There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.
- As with other protease inhibitors, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Please read the following page for detailed information on side effects and dosing.

Please read the following page for more detailed information about CRIXIVAN.

**Remember to
ask your doctor
about CRIXIVAN.**

CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Going the distance.

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.



CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Patient Information about CRIXIVAN® (KRIK-sih-van)
for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: indinavir (in-DIH-nuh-veer) sulfate

Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, you should read the information included with CRIXIVAN each time you receive your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor. Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays." If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, **every day**. It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time. However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. Take CRIXIVAN with water. You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal. Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
 - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
 - corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
6. It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) throughout the day, **every day**. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones. Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
- You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN. Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Diabetes
- Hemophilia

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?**

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine) HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam) HALCION® (triazolam)
PROPULSID® (cisapride) Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)
Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness). In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT) BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine) isoniazid (INH)
DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole) ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
EPIVIR™ (lamivudine, 3TC) ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)
BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)
VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.
MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.
NIZORAL® (ketonazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this page alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly processed blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: abdominal swelling; inflammation of the kidneys; increased fat appearing in areas such as the neck, abdomen, and back; change in skin color; severe skin reactions; hair loss; crystals in the urine; and allergic reactions.

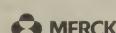
Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°F-86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



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Sacto man loses Boy Scout job after 'witch hunt'

by Mark Norby

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is being sued for sexual orientation discrimination by a Sacramento gay man who worked for the organization for 22 years. The lawsuit was filed in Sacramento Superior Court Tuesday, March 23 by Paul Wotman and Geoffrey Kors of the San Francisco Law Offices of Wotman and Kors, and is a groundbreaking case that could challenge the conservative establishment on several levels.

Wotman and Kors filed the suit on behalf of Chris Keener, who rose to the rank of Eagle Scout — the highest rank within the BSA — and worked as assistant council executive for the BSA's Golden Empire Council franchise in Sacramento. The suit purports to bring to the public's attention that the BSA violated the constitutional and civil rights of a gay employee, and is the first such suit to challenge the BSA for firing employees known to be gay. Keener, the adoptive father of two children, was terminated from the BSA in September 1998 after an invasive internal investigation into his sexual orientation, a veritable "witch hunt," according to gay rights attorney Kors.

According to the allegations in the complaint, Keener was reportedly informed by his supervisor that, per Boy Scout policy, employees who were known to be gay would be fired. "The Boy Scouts conducted an unconstitutional and illegal investigation into Mr. Keener's life," Kors told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Before Keener's termination, his supervisor, Scott Johnson, allegedly hired private investigators to look into his private life and to determine his sexual orientation. "They went so far as to call a co-worker and friend of Mr. Keener into a meeting where they sur-



Chris Keener (L) with attorneys Paul Wotman and Geoffrey Kors

prised her by placing her in a small room with two men she had never met before. She was then subjected to three hours of questioning regarding Mr. Keener's private life and sexual orientation. She was required to provide names of Mr. Keener's friends and asked about their sexual orientation. Another individual was sent to Mr. Keener's hometown to investigate his personal life," Kors stated.

After completing their investigation, the Boy Scouts reportedly looked for a pretext to fire Keener. Last September they found one, according to Kors, "and fired Mr. Keener claiming that the reason he was fired was for accepting a discount from a local business even though other employees had engaged in similar practices. Despite a perfect record of excellent service to the Boy Scouts over 22 years, Mr. Keener was terminated in violation of California law, law that protects gay people from this type of discrimination."

The California Supreme Court ruled in 1998 that the Boy Scouts was a private organization and thus could discriminate in membership. However, according to gay rights attorney Wotman, "California's employment discrimination laws apply to private associations, thus giving employees the

ability to sue when they are fired based on their sexual orientation."

Johnson, who remains employed at the BSA's headquarters in Sacramento and who was allegedly responsible for Keener's termination, did not return calls from the B.A.R.

"This treatment of a gay employee by the Boy Scouts is outrageous," said Kors. "For an organization which purports to be instilling boys and young men with values and moral character to have a policy of firing employees known to be gay is highly offensive and illegal. When the Boy Scouts of America invades its own employees' privacy in a zealous effort to identify and 'weed out' gay employees, it is completely outside the bounds of the law."

The complaint alleges five causes of action, including sexual orientation discrimination, wrongful termination, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and two actions based on invasion of privacy. This is the first time that the Boy Scout's anti-gay employment policy has been challenged under California's labor code which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Keener is not seeking his job back. He has begun work as a truck driver. ▼

Bakersfield school district settles gay discrimination case, apologizes

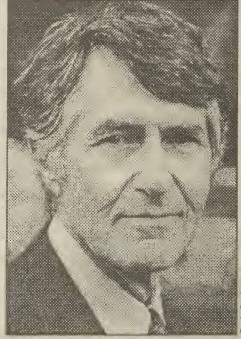
by Cynthia Laird

A Bakersfield teacher who had 15 students pulled from his class because he is gay has settled his sexual orientation discrimination case against the school district. According to a Thursday, March 18 announcement, the settlement included an apology from school officials to teacher Dr. James Merrick.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the California Teachers Association (CTA) reached the settlement on Merrick's behalf. Earlier this month, a state labor commissioner ruled that the Rio Bravo-Greeley Union School District discriminated against Merrick because of his sexual orientation.

District officials removed 15 of more than 100 students from Merrick's eighth grade science class simply because some parents did not want their children in a gay teacher's class. Merrick is a recent recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award from the Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce.

In the settlement, approved



Dr. James Merrick

unanimously by the school district's five-member board of trustees, the district agreed it would not remove students from any class for reasons relating to "the ethnicity, race, national origin, age, sex, actual or perceived sexual orientation, disability, or political or religious beliefs of the classroom teachers." The district also agreed to consult with a committee that includes Merrick to

create an anti-discrimination program for improving staff understanding of district policy.

"One of the primary goals of this program shall be to eliminate misunderstandings regarding sexual orientation," the settlement stated. "The board will, in writing, express support for Dr. Merrick as a teacher and regret comments and actions by some members of the public and staff that may have called into question his fitness to teach."

Additionally, as part of the settlement, the district will not appeal the labor commissioner's decision.

Although undercut by the district's earlier actions, Merrick remains dedicated to teaching science. He will return to work as a curriculum specialist, planning the elementary school's new life lab and pursuing curriculum development efforts outside the classroom. Merrick's previously scheduled June retirement will remain in effect.

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page 23 ▶

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Old habits

◀ page 1

the habits, and strolled out for a Castro cruise, eliciting oohs and ahs of surprise and admiration. Then they went across town and down the cliff trail to the notorious Land's End gay beach. The throngs of sand-and-cum-glazed bathers interrupted their frolicking and basking to gaze awestruck at the spectacle of three queer Sisters dramatically traipsing among them.

The reaction was intense everywhere the pseudo-nuns went, with people – especially recovering Catholics – expressing delight and amazement at their get-ups. Here was drag of a different order, mimicking not tragic Hollywood divas or vamps and whores but sacrosanct personages, the guardians of public morals, the shapers of young, impressionable minds, the righteous do-gooders who forego worldly possessions to live cloistered in all-woman cliques, serving the Man upstairs, who in turn services them, causing them to finger their beads and mutter hosannahs the long nights through.

Sacred icons were being smashed to smithereens by Bunch and his buddies that day 20 years ago, and the public loved it.

"I thought: Wow, this could be a very interesting tool," says Bunch, who, unbeknownst to him at the time, would go on to become Sister Vicious Power-Hungry Bitch, the founder of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc., a global phenomenon whose history has been marked by triumph and controversy, play and politics, public service and public nuisance, inspiring a mix of admiration and loathing from queers and straights alike.

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Soon after that initial Easter outing, Bunch and his new roommates, Edmund Garron and Bill Braham, decided to participate as nun cheerleaders at a softball game between the San Francisco Fire Department and the Gay Softball League.

"We ended up running our veils up the flagpoles," recalls Bunch, "and the audience was so distracted, they started cheering and the game stopped. The players couldn't figure out what was going on."

A name, and fame

The crowd reaction sparked an idea in Garron's mind, to use nun drag to make political statements. A natural organizer, Garron rounded up 10 friends that December, including some former Catholics, to flesh out ideas for a new queer order of nuns, and decide on its political agenda.

At that meeting, names for the group were tossed out; the one that stuck aptly described the order's libertine ways, in which sex in all its splendid varieties would be celebrated in mind, body, and spirit. Yet the name Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence gave little hint of the huge activist contribution the group would soon be making to community fundraising, healthcare education, and advocacy (before and especially after the advent of AIDS), civil-rights organizing, and consciousness raising.

Soon not just the gay world, but the straight world too knew who the Sisters were, even if most people hardly understood what (if anything) their masquerade was all about.

Naturally, everyone had an opinion about the Sisters. At first most people embraced the nuns' high-spirited hijinks. But that was before the Sisters gained wide renown, lending an immediately recognizable – and, some felt, offensive – face to the emerging gay and lesbian liberation movement.

A change in public perception began after two Sisters arranged their first meeting with then-Mayor Dianne Feinstein in 1982. They attempted to convince the mayor that the Sisters were an asset to the community rather than an embarrassment or liability.

But the mayor wasn't buying it. After listening politely, she slammed her fist on her desk and said: "I just don't know. When I see the Sisters, I just see red."

When word of her comment got back to the rest of the nuns, Sister Chanel 2001 (aka Gilbert Baker, creator of the rainbow flag) immediately suggested the Sisters stage a "Red Party."

Which they did in a big way, renting the Russian Hall and decorating it all in red, including red Soviet and Chinese flags.

Alas, the owner of what turned out to be the "White Russian" Hall (unbeknownst to the Sisters who rented it) was the daughter of the top general serving the Tsar at the time of the Russian Revolution. She demanded the flag's removal, but was rebuffed by flag queen Baker. The party proceeded apace, was a huge success, and was followed two days later by bold front-page headlines in the *Examiner*: "Gays offend Russians" (as Bunch remembers the incident).

"It had a photo of a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence with her fist rolled up and a real mean look," recalls Bunch. "and it was a complete hatchet job on the Sisters."

From then on things got rocky for the order. With the spotlight trained on the Sisters, many people – especially conservative gays – began to scrutinize the mock nuns more closely, and didn't always like what they found.

"The early Sisters tended to debauchery," the late Sister X-plision! (John Chidester) once told a reporter, "but then times called for that; the Sisters personified the extreme decadence of gay men in the late 1970s and early 1980s."

Responding to a crisis

By the summer of 1982, the Sisters were no longer universally perceived as cuddly mascots; many, if not most gays considered them as much rabble-rousers as anything. Moreover, at that time the whole concept of drag was under attack within the queer community. As outrageous drag queens as well as highly theatrical activists, the Sisters were swept up in controversy.

Then AIDS broke out. The bleak time ensuing left precious little room for frivolity. Of necessity, but also out of a growing sense of mission, the Sisters transformed themselves, taking their role as educators and fundraisers more seriously. They staged the first AIDS benefit in 1982, with Shirley MacLaine, raising funds for the KS Foundation. They produced a pamphlet called "Play Fair," listing ways for gays to take precautions against venereal diseases (before AIDS had been identified as such). From there on, AIDS activism and consciousness raising became the Sisters' priority. They created the banner for the first AIDS protest march, "Fighting for Our Lives." And one of their own, Bobby Campbell, aka Sister Florence Nightmare R.N., became the first AIDS patient in the world to go public, becoming the AIDS poster boy.

Yet criticism of the Sisters persisted, as did AIDS, both taking a toll on the order. By 1987, when the Pope made a visit to San Francisco, the Sisters numbered no more than six or seven. Yet those few diehards managed to anger the Roman Catholic Church hierarchy by performing a public canonization ceremony in honor of the Pope's arrival. They marched to the door of St. Mary's Cathedral and (like Martin Luther of old) posted their demands on the church door.

Through those dark days, Bunch, as founding Sister, kept the group alive and in the public eye, if barely, by doing lots of little events such as basketball games to raise funds for charity.

Fortunately for the order, the tide was beginning to turn as other activist groups came to the fore, beginning with ACT UP and continuing with Queer Nation. Those groups helped people grasp the value of activism, which had been devalued since the tumultuous, often heady years following Stonewall and the White Night riots. No longer did the Sisters seem so outrageous. Once more, the climate was right for their acceptance by most queers.

If the 1980s were a time of decline for the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the 1990s were a time of global expansion. In 1990, Sister Vicious and two other nuns went to Europe where they helped start an order in Berlin. Other orders sprouted in Australia (where the Sisters wear no makeup, admit no women, and view themselves as strictly political), New Zealand, France, Great Britain, South Africa, Ireland, Norway, and beyond.

San Francisco remains the Mother House of the Order, with Sister Vicious, the matriarch, casting a benign but critical eye over the land, keeping her Sisters in order while dedicating herself (as all Sisters take a vow to do) to the promulgation of universal joy and the expiation of stigmatic guilt. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sisters' party

◀ page 1

celebration is proper. However, simple judgment dictates another day would have been better."

Mayor Willie Brown also weighed in on the matter Monday, saying he thinks the Sisters should consider changing the date. "The mayor supports the idea of free speech and the First Amendment," Kandace Bender, Brown's press secretary, told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "but this is an extraordinarily sacred day and the mayor wants tolerance and respect on all sides." The mayor said the matter is up to the Board of Supervisors.

Sister Camille Leon told the B.A.R. that the party will go on as scheduled. "We're not planning to change the date of the party because it's our birthday," Leon said. "We've heard from so many people all over the country who are in support and we have gotten support from other religious groups in the Bay Area."

Supervisor Mark Leno pointed out that Orthodox Easter is April 11 – the date Beceril suggested for the party – and wondered whether the Sisters would be forced to keep rescheduling the event "to a date no one is bothered or offended by."

"To suggest the date needs to be changed gives credence to inaccurate and misleading descriptions of the Sisters," Leno told the B.A.R. Tuesday, March 23. Over the last 20 years, the Sisters have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for various charitable events. The group is predominantly gay and their campy style and satire has made them popular at various events over the years.

"Years of rituals"

Ammiano was livid after the move by Beceril, who was joined by Supervisor Amos Brown in calling for the party date to be changed. "It's important that elected officials honor and cherish the separation of church and state," Ammiano told the B.A.R.

Beceril said her proposed resolution is not about the First Amendment or free speech. She pointed out the Catholic Church is mulling a boycott of the city over the issue. "I spoke to a pastor of a church in the Castro and many parishioners are upset. I got another message from a nun that the celebration occurs on the holiest day of her religion," Beceril said. "Good judgment means public officials don't pit one community against another."

Brown echoed her comments. "It is with great concern and a sense of tremendous pain that I speak my mind and clear my conscience regarding the Sisters," Brown, a Baptist minister, said at the board meeting. "This is a high holy day and there are years of ritual and relationships around that day. It is something to look at very carefully. I have personally spoken out against any insults against people because they're different, particularly the gay and lesbian community and my record speaks to that."

"When the matter was presented to the board, when I took the vote, it was based on the reference that this was the anniversary of a group that has done charitable work. I'd have no problem with that," Brown added. "I think this board should not be a part to legislation of any activity that causes tension and stress in the city of St. Francis. It's not a homophobic statement, it's a question of civility, sensibility, and tolerance and [being] realis-

tic, reasonable, and responsible."

Supervisor Leslie Katz noted the matter was referred to the board's next agenda without first going to a committee, meaning any one supervisor can send it to committee, where it would be calendared at a later date. "I'm very disturbed, it's a clear violation of separation of church and state," Katz told the B.A.R. "I'm offended by the rhetoric, but the good news is it has brought publicity to the work the Sisters do."

Most, if not all, of the board members have gotten plenty of calls – many from angry Catholics – and Ammiano said the storm of protest against the street closing is being fueled by the archdiocese, which has also spoken out against gay philanthropist James Hormel being appointed ambassador to Luxembourg. Ammiano also said his office has received many calls in support of the Sisters.

Leno recounted a call he received from a woman asking how she could get a permit to close a street to celebrate Dan White's birthday, a reference to the former supervisor who assassinated former Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. "This is what the archdiocese is eliciting from its congregants," Leno said.

Maurice Healy, spokesman for the archdiocese, told the B.A.R. that the archdiocese is not the "primary force" in the matter.

"This is very much a grassroots effort," he said.

Dignity/San Francisco, a group of lesbian and gay Catholics, issued a statement in support of the Sisters. "The current controversy over the 20th anniversary celebration of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence exists because some conservative Catholics are unable to experience their faith beyond its literal form," stated co-chairs Gilbert Gonzalez and Gino Ramos. "The Sisters ... have always satirized institutions that destroy lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Before rejecting them, we ask people to be reminded of the good that they have done and will continue to do."

"We do not believe that the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence opposes organizations, churches, and congregations like Dignity/San Francisco that seek to make its members whole by integrating our sexuality with our spirituality. Our knowledge of the Sisters in fact, tells us that the group started out with a strong spiritual dimension. Dignity/San Francisco congratulates the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence on their 20th anniversary," the statement concluded. ▼

The March 29 board meeting starts at 6 p.m. and takes place at 270 Sixth Street, at Folsom.

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As seen on ABC's 20/20

Science backs medical pot

by Bob Roehr

Science once again slammed politics in the public debate over the use of marijuana as medicine. The latest compendium of facts, as opposed to rhetoric, is "Marijuana and Medicine: Assessing the Science Base" a report by the prestigious nonprofit Institute of Medicine (IOM).

The report was commissioned by Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey for \$896,000, and released by the IOM at a packed Washington news conference Wednesday, March 17.

"There is remarkable consensus about the science that suggests the potential of cannabinoid [components of marijuana] drugs for medical use," said John A. Benson, Jr., one of the principal investigators on the study. He is dean and professor of medicine emeritus at the Oregon Health Sciences University School of Medicine, Portland.

"There is far less convincing data about actual medical benefits" from marijuana, he said. That is largely because "the appropriate studies have not been done." He urged that those clinical trials be undertaken.

The report has a strong bias against smoking marijuana, which reflects the hysteria gripping American public debate on all types of smoking. But Benson conceded, "there are some limited circumstances," such as terminal illness or short term use to deal with the effects of chemotherapy, "in which we recommend smoking marijuana for medical uses."



John A. Benson Jr.

"Beyond the harmful effects from smoking," the report concluded, "the range of problems associated with marijuana is not out of line with those of substances used in other medicines."

Stanley J. Watson, Jr. was the other principal investigator for the study. He is co-director and research scientist at the Mental Health Research Institute of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

"Marijuana's future as medicine does not involve smoking," he said. "It involves exploiting the potential in cannabinoids such as THC, the key psychoactive ingredient in marijuana."

Natural marijuana contains about 400 compounds, about 30 of which have been identified as active ingredients that may have some type of effect on the human body.

The report shot down two core myths perpetuated by anti-drug warriors. One is that marijuana is highly addictive, the other is that it is a "gateway drug" to other substance abuse.

It said, "few marijuana users develop dependence, some do." It characterized withdrawal symptoms as "mild and short-lived."

"Most drug users begin with alcohol and nicotine before marijuana - usually before they are of legal age," they wrote. Watson said they "found no conclusive evidence that something in marijuana causes a progression" to harder drugs.

He believes the public can make the distinction between legitimate medical use and abuse of marijuana.

The report pushed for identification of cannabinoids that are "active ingredients" in marijuana, and development of synthetic compounds of these as drugs. It also wants to see a mechanical inhaler developed that delivers the drugs in the same rapid manner

as smoking does, while eliminating the noxious components from burning the plant.

Benson said that the euphoric effect of marijuana may be lost in other formulations. He thought the euphoria might be "a beneficial side effect," both because it may enhance a sense of well being and because it "titrates the dose" so that the patient takes enough but not too much of the marijuana to have the desired effect.

Watson pushed for access to marijuana through a compassionate use program similar to those for other experimental drugs. He said, "It would offer the opportunity for a broader spectrum of physicians to offer some relief from the conflict between medicine and law."

The federal government still runs a marijuana compassionate use program for eight individuals. One patient has been on it for more than two decades. But the government closed off new entries to the program in 1992.

Reactions

The IOM is "in effect saying that most of what the government has told us about marijuana is false," said Bill Zimmerman, director of Americans for Medical Rights. "It's not addictive, it's not a gateway to heroin and cocaine, it has a legitimate medical use, and it's not as dangerous as common drugs like Prozac and Viagra." The group has pushed state ballot initiatives opening up medical use of marijuana.

"Patients already using marijuana would be given the benefit of the doubt and should not be arrested," said Chuck Thomas, director of the Marijuana Policy Project based in Washington, D.C.

AIDS activist Kiyoshi Kuroki, the lead plaintiff in a class action medical marijuana lawsuit now in federal court in Philadelphia, said that the report "will help people get their marijuana without risking arrest for a while."

"The report seems to recommend something [a federally run compassionate use program] that is very close to Judge Katz's settlement offer that the feds turned down."

Kuroki said the report "also destroys the main argument for keeping marijuana a Schedule I drug" under the Controlled Substances Act. "It doesn't fit that definition."

Dr. Don Abrams is conducting the only clinical trial of smoked marijuana in the United States

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HIV?

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Homopolitan

by Jim Provenzano

Adam Colton, the gay kid brutally beaten a few weeks ago in the faraway land of Novato, still needs your support. Send a card or letter, and a stern response to the school administrators, who are more concerned whether the bashing took place on their property ("Gee, I hate it when fags sue!") than with helping him.

Mail to: Adam Colton and/or School Administrators, C/O San Marin High School 15 San Marin Drive Novato, CA 94945.

That said, let's discuss Adam's situation, as if he were like a lot of other kids facing violence at home and at school. Let's pretend Adam's parents aren't supportive of his plight. Let's say Adam, or a kid like him, runs away, over the river and through the BART, to the magical mystery Castro, where the fairy tales tell us the spirit of Harvey Milk welcomes all homos with open arms.

Let's say it's raining.

By 3 a.m. the only place for him to stay has a catch — sleep with some guy he's not at all attracted to, or party all night with some of the bad boys who swoop down on anyone who walks too slow. Let's say a bad boy offers him something to put up his nose that takes him down a rabbit hole it takes three years to crawl out of.

How long will it take for him to get a night's rest, a job or an apartment? How much more bad stuff needs to happen before he's

Josh Puckett, the Sequel?

It's just this unfortunate turn of events that has pitted some members of our gay and lesbian athletic community against the homeless kids who are being temporarily housed in the Eureka Valley Recreation Center (EVRC) gym. Gene Dermody has lived in San Francisco a long time, and is a rather assertive voice among the athletic community of people who use EVRC. His wrestling team meets there two to three times a week. I'm quoting from his statements given at a March 6 Team San Francisco meeting.

"We wrestlers and other gay and lesbian sports groups worked very hard for years, going back to 1987, to keep an athletic presence at EV Rec," said Dermody. "We are not against this temporary usage, and we have even offered our help and support to the EV Rec staff during this period, so that this emergency situation can be weathered by all."

"Our objections to the whole plan have to do with the inappropriate nature of EV Rec to host such an undertaking. There are only one or two working bathroom facilities, no showers, no storage areas, and no bedding. There is also the question of sanitation, area security, and existing equipment in the building that can be easily tampered with and now needs to be moved and locked up."

"It's not a NIMBY [not-in-my-backyard] issue," Tony Jazinski said in an interview. Jazinski, who heads gay men's basketball, says he lost a previous space for basketball that became a homeless shelter. During the Reagan era, even EV Rec was reluctant to allow his mostly gay players to use the gym.

Jazinski attributes the years-ago loss of shower facilities to the early 1990s drought. The showers are currently a jumble of storage and office space.

Others, however, claim that Rec and homophobically closed them to stop alleged shower sexual shenanigans. Either way, it leaves the gym with a less-than-perfect setting for either sports or sheltering. But where else is there for either?

Although he believes we need a homeless shelter for queer youth in the Castro, Jazinski doesn't see the gym as the best place. He also did not care for the tactics of other neighbors efforts to stop the homeless program at the highly-publicized venom fest where wild accusations of "cooties" and "babynapping" revealed the hatred behind some quaint Victorians of the hood. Jazinski said he "couldn't join in because it was such a mean-spirited campaign."

But yet both men feel threatened that their space will become a permanent homeless facility. Said Jazinski, "Once you start to



Sports Complex



Set up and/or beg. But not both.

turn it into a shelter, it loses the athletic values."

Others say that the entire issue is a political football (or some other bad sports analogy) kicked off (oops) with gusto by Supervisor Leslie Katz in a fumbled hand off (ouch) from The Hat.

I don't know what to make of all this. I can only peek out my window and notice the view of City Hall's shiny, expensive new lid. It sure do look purty.

Sports issues

Dermody says he could be thrown out of the facility. "It is this athletic facility, and the possibility of program expansion, pushing sports out of EV Rec that worries us." He urged Team San Francisco, which also uses the facility for meetings, "to at least recognize the fact that gay and lesbian athletics is also very important to our community, and should not be made the fall guy."

But Team SF board member Anne Ludwig stated, "After reviewing our by-laws it appears that Team San Francisco cannot make any political statements or try to influence politicians/regulators."

Despite this, Dermody remains in a defensive posture. "We really have no other facility to go to."

But neither do the kids. Dermody's closing remarks echo the increasingly reactionary attitude of anyone who resents those without property in a city administration that outlaws occupying public space. "By being proactive and vigilant in monitoring this, we do everyone a service by keeping them informed," he said.

Words like "vigilant" and "monitoring" make me uncomfortable. Always have. How this temporary program, while an obvious ploy by

politicians to force the homeless problem on the queer community, will endanger gay athletics continues to elude me.

Last I heard, in a case of an emergency, the first place people went to were gymnasiums. The cots would be laid out for the night, then folded up. It's in all the classic disaster films, even *Revenge of the Nerds*, which includes a gay African-American homeless kid. Who kicked them out? Oh. That's right. The jocks.

So it's about space issues from upper middle class home owners who use the gym a few hours a week. But how can we define "need" or "emergency," when we've built our lives around the elimination of both? I'm sorry sweat has a higher value than grime.

On a recent stroll past EVRC, I noticed half a dozen kids sitting outside the entrance in their usual place. A few even played on the swings. Across Collingwood Street, a bitter-looking man peered out his elegantly draped window, obviously perturbed by the mere presence of the waifs.

If homophobia were a toxic cloud, we'd be letting them in our homes. Well, it is, and we're not.

I've noticed I have some clothes I could do without. Also, they give you plastic spoons at Fuzio's for your doggy bags. My leftover dinner made one kid happy, or warm, for a while.

I don't know what we're supposed to do with them. I do know what they do to them in Novato high school parking lots. I'd like to think that here is better. ▼

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Medical pot

◀ page 20

[see related story, page 21] at the University of California in San Francisco. He explained, "A Schedule I drug has no medical benefits, a Schedule II drug does."

Reclassification would have a tremendous impact on conducting research on marijuana as a medicine, making it much easier to do. As a Schedule I drug, "there is only one legal source, NIDA [the National Institute for Drug Abuse at the National Institutes of Health]," Abrams said. "And that means every attempt to study marijuana needs to go through rigorous peer review" prior to initiation.

Abrams panned the report's criticism of natural marijuana and its preference for seeking the active ingredients. "To me that is just our

typically western pharmaceutical industry-inspired paradigm.

"If it works, why do we have to alter it? It's our reductionist western approach as well as the capitalist way. Let's see if we can isolate and synthesize something that somebody is going to make money off of."

McCaffrey, who commissioned the study, acknowledged the scientific content. But he chose to emphasize the fact that smoking was not the route to go. He implied that emphasis should be placed on finding alternative delivery mechanisms rather than evaluating clinical effects of marijuana delivered through smoke. That means further delay.

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart acknowledged the positive aspects of the report but his key message was that "further research" is required. ▼

Pat Robertson's problems

by Bob Roehr

Has the Christian Coalition lost its political muscle?" asked Stuart Rothenberg in the Capitol Hill newspaper *Roll Call*. He reported that the budget and staff in 1998 were half of what they were in 1996.

He quoted "one GOP operative" as saying, "Frankly, they were missing in action, AWOL, in 1998. They weren't doing the things that they had done previously." The results showed most tellingly with losses by coalition favorites in the governor's races in Alabama and South Carolina.

The coalition has been in steep decline since the departure of Executive Director Ralph Reed. He was able to smooth over many of the rough strategic and rhetorical edges of the apocalyptic Pat Robertson.

Last month the president of the coalition resigned. Many interpret former Energy Secretary Donald Hodel's departure as a policy dispute with Robertson. The televangelist assumed the position himself. Other senior staff have also resigned in the last few weeks, including the last of the people that Reed had hired.

Robertson and the Christian Coalition have scurried to conduct damage control. On March 11 they launched a new grassroots political campaign aimed at raising \$21 million to recruit and

train religious conservative activists for the 2000 elections.

Robertson said the campaign would focus on five key states — New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois — outside of the organization's traditional base of support in the South.

"They are scrambling to put a happy face on what is very, very serious turmoil at the Christian Coalition," said Kevin Ivers spokesman for Log Cabin Republicans.

Highland fling

Ivers was flying back from vacation when he read that Robertson and the Bank of Scotland were forming a business partnership to conduct electronic banking in the U.S. The bank would provide the expertise, Robertson his database of members at the coalition and TV viewers of *The 700 Club*. Robertson would get a third of the profits.

On March 1, Ivers contacted the Equality Network in the United Kingdom to stir up opposition. Soon Log Cabin was feeding them information on Robertson and the network was alerting the Scottish public.

The *Edinburgh Scotsman* wrote in a March 5 editorial: "Does one of Scotland's most prestigious institutions really feel comfortable that it is now intimately associated with a man who earnestly insists that homosexuals want to destroy Christians, that feminists kill

their children and practice witchcraft, and that the United Nations is an evil organization?" It urged the bank to drop its new partner.

Edinburgh University has joined with scores of individuals in threatening to move its account should the deal with Robertson go through.

Bank of Scotland officials have tried to defuse the situation by meeting with opponents to the partnership. At first they said it was just a business deal, but as time went on they seemed to embrace the man as well.

"The bank is defending him now," said John Fellows, president of the Edinburgh University Student's Association. "They are acting politically as well as being a business."

Public opposition to the venture continues to mount. "We're trying to turn off every faucet that we can, to try to choke the Christian Coalition to death," said Ivers.

Other problems

Robertson's appointment to a Virginia state economic development board is on hold. State Senator Janet Howell (D-Reston) has challenged his fitness to serve because Robertson's "ethics are under serious question." It stems from an ongoing investigation of the non-profit Operation Blessing, part of Robertson's web of activity.

Some pilots employed by the organization have said that rather than flying relief supplies to needy

African refugees, they devoted most of their time to flying supplies in and diamonds out of a mine in the Congo. The diamond operation with the late dictator Mobutu was part of Robertson's commercial empire. The charges could jeopardize the tax-exempt status of Operation Blessing.

And the political fragmentation of the religious right continues to grow. In February, Paul Weyrich, one of the founding fathers of the movement, said that politics has failed. He urged religious conservatives to turn their energies to building their own institutions of community rather than trying to take political control of the nation.

Robertson will face another rising voice in the Catholic Alliance. It was begun by the Christian Coalition in 1995, became independent two years later, and has



Pat Robertson

maintained a low profile.

That will change under the leadership of Raymond Flynn, who became executive director on March 17. He is the former mayor of Boston and subsequent ambassador to the Vatican.

Flynn told *The New York Times*, "Our focus will be on solidarity with the poor, the needy and the immigrants." The Catholic Alliance is also strongly opposed to abortion and to legal recognition of same-sex marriage. ▼

California Common Cause calls on DPH to further review HRC finding at New Leaf

by Mark Norby

In a March 1 letter addressed to San Francisco city officials concerning the finding of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) at New Leaf Services for Our Community, California Common Cause requested that the Department of Public Health (DPH) further conduct reviews on contracting and health services delivery at New Leaf's San Francisco agency.

The HRC's finding stems from the October 1994 case involving Gerald Bert, a former counselor at New Leaf who charged the agency with gender discrimination and failure to monitor services provided to clients seeking drug and alcohol dependency counseling.

Further, California Common Cause is calling on DPH to investigate alleged breach of confidentiality of complainant medical

records at New Leaf, a charge reported in a February 1 article in the journal *Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Weekly*.

California Common Cause — a statewide coalition monitoring civic and government organizations and their operations — believes "it is incumbent upon the [DPH] health commission to assume direct oversight of this matter in order to insure due process, prevent improper interventions and to review the failure of the DPH contract monitoring and compliance system," according to Don Ellison, San Francisco Common Cause co-coordinator.

"The ethics and integrity of our local governmental processes must not be compromised by or on behalf of one, nonprofit provider," added Ellison.

New Leaf's opportunity to appeal the HRC's finding expired Tuesday, February 9. Joe Neisen, executive director of New Leaf,

was unable to comment on the agency's current position in the matter. ▼

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Gay teacher

◀ page 17

Merrick said.

Lambda staff attorney Myron Dean Quon said the settlement "was a historic case that creates good law for all of us."

"It's a shame that the district's discriminatory actions came just as Merrick was preparing to end an exemplary teaching career," Quon added. "Faced with a devastating assault on his character, he had the courage to seek justice."

Scott McVarish, CTA's staff counsel, said the decision will stand as an important precedent for gay teachers and other gay employees throughout the state. "This settlement will be the blue-

print for how all school districts in California must protect the rights of gay teachers," McVarish stated.

Beatrice Dohrn, Lambda legal director, said she welcomed the agreement, but noted, "It's sad that, having undermined Dr. Merrick's authority, the school cannot now 'unring the bell' and restore him to his previous position in the classroom. The kids have lost an award-winning science teacher to discrimination."

"Fortunately, Dr. Merrick's efforts will help ensure that such discrimination does not happen again and he will be able to continue working to shape future lessons about both science and respect for others. This settlement is a fitting legacy for Dr. Merrick," Dohrn added. ▼

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San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is con-
ducted by an individual, signed Michael David
Powers, President. The registrant(s) commenced
to transact business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on, N/A. The state-
ment was filed with the County Clerk of the City
and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/22/99.
FEB. 11,18,25, MAR. 4 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO.229220
The following person(s) are doing business as
Contagious Inspirations, 701 Pennsylvania Ave.
#3 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Scott Heleg-
ger. The registrant(s) commenced to transact
business under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on 02/24/99. The statement was
filed with the County Clerk of the City and County
of San Francisco, CA on 02/24/99.

STATEMENT FILE NO.229220
The following person(s) are doing business as
Personal Angel 123 San Juan Avenue San Fran-
cisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an
individual, signed Roberta Dee
Friedman, President. The registrant(s) commenced
to transact business under the above listed fictitious
business name or names on, N/A. The state-
ment was filed with the County Clerk of the City
and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/02/99.
FEB. 11,18,25, MAR. 4 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO.228855
The following person(s) are doing business as, San
Francisco Mai, 450 8th St. San Francisco, Ca.
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LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR
THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO:**

FILE NO.301632
In the Matter of the Application of
Manuel Jesus Cuena For Change of Name. The
application of Manuel Jesus Cuena for change of
name, having been filed in court, and it ap-
pearing from said application that Manuel Jesus
Cuena filed an application purporting that his
name be changed to Kathy Marie Cuena. Now
therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that
all persons interested in said matter do appear
before this Court in department X-4-206 on the
6th day of April, 1999, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., or
said day to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 4,11,18,25, 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO.229282
The following person(s) are doing business as
Contagious Inspirations, 701 Pennsylvania Ave.
#3 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is
conducted by an individual, signed Scott Heleg-
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E12

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E13

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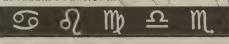
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'Flesh' flick

Director Benoit Jacquot's 'The School of Flesh.'

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**Blondie's new wave**

Deborah Harry and band return with 'No Exit.'

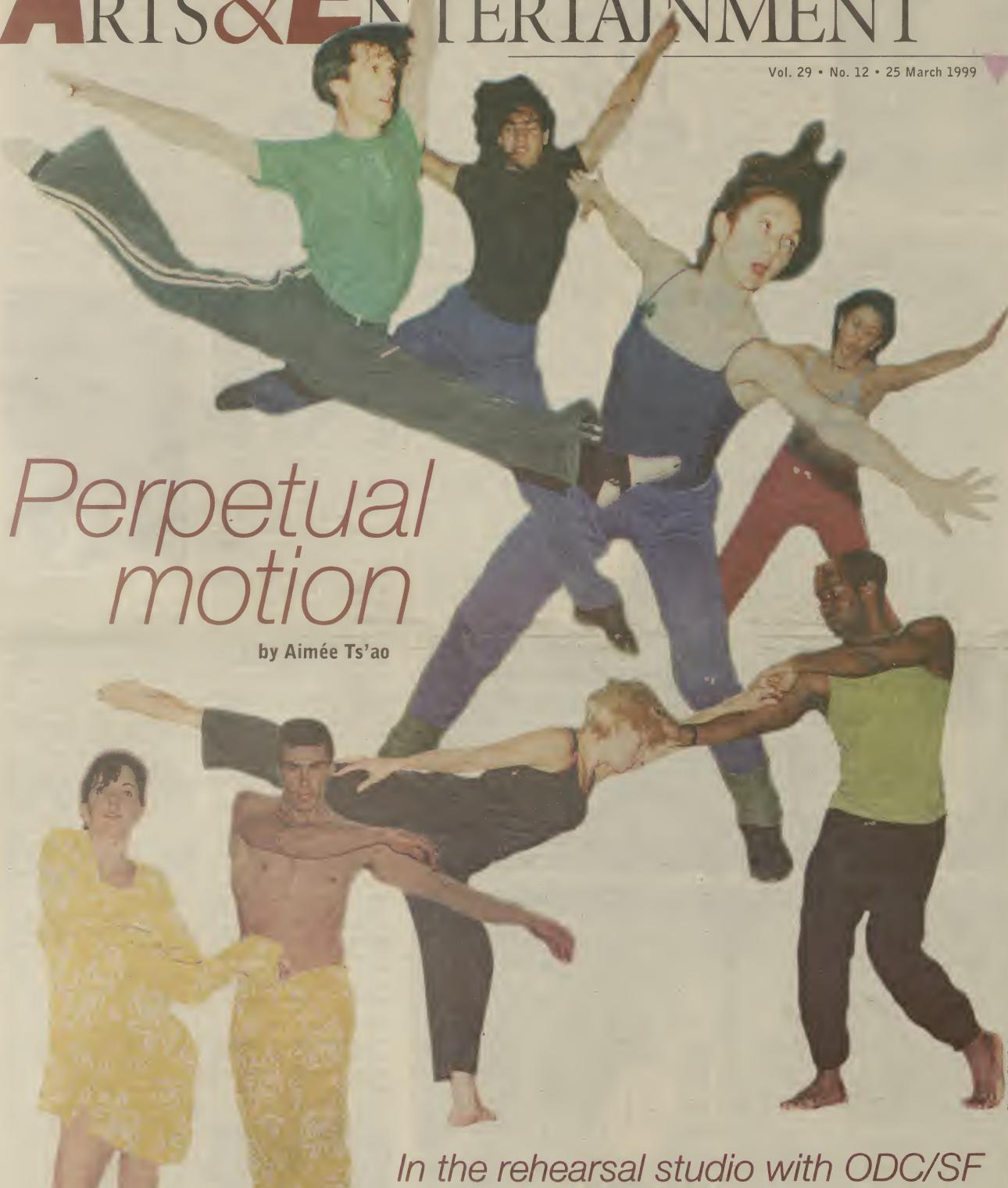
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 29 • No. 12 • 25 March 1999

BAY AREA REPORTER



Perpetual motion

by Aimée Ts'ao

Photos by Rick Gerhardt

In the rehearsal studio with ODC/SF

He is carrying a woman above his head with fully extended arms, holding her by the nape of her neck and her leg. She holds her back completely straight, looking at the ceiling, barely missing the hanging lights and rafters in the rehearsal studio. Slowly and very gently, he lowers her to the ground, and the two dancers continue their duet to some slow and lyrical music I don't recognize.

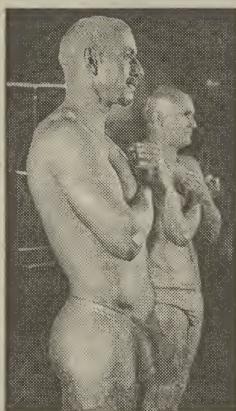
Three other men are dancing together in the background. They finish and leave the floor. A sudden change in the texture of the music. A single woman enters and starts moving and soon the studio is filled with

seven others dancing with incredible speed and athleticism. I'm exhausted just watching them. As soon as they are done, some sweat-drenched dancers dash for their water bottles, a few flop on the floor while several diehards perfect a movement phrase or two.

KT Nelson, the choreographer of the piece, emphasizes how pleased she is that they have learned a 22-minute ballet in four days. Normally, a dance company would take about two weeks to set a piece that length. But they have no choice, ODC/SF's spring season is opening in ten days, and there are other premieres to work on as well. Nelson delivers her notes on what needs to be changed or corrected,

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



Human Oscars at the Academy of Friends benefit bash at Fort Mason

by Roberto Friedman and Beth Actreth

In a slightly embarrassing confessional that opera queen Wayne Koestenbaum published in *The New York Times Magazine* last week, he admits having vivid dreams about movie stars: "Ramon Navarro sang at a nightclub. He wore a Tarzan costume; his legs were flabby. I knew we were meant for each other, though I wondered how he could still be alive."

It was a wet-dreams-about-movie-stars kind of mood last Sunday night, when that annual national masturbation over the

Silver Screen, the Academy Awards, was the focus of the socialize-and-watch-the-broadcast kind of house parties and gala events. Feeling slightly abashed to have donned black tie in order to watch a biopic TV screen, there we were at the Academy of Friends AIDS benefit bash at the Festival Pavilion in Fort Mason, just one penguin in a sea of tuxes. We had dressed at the office, where there is no full-length mirror, and we're the type to whom formalwear is counterintuitive.

Any time ya got a hook or a strap involved is trouble for us.

We got to the ball just in time to see host Whoopi Goldberg open big as "the African queen," then James Coburn win best supporting actor, which pleased us, because unlike fellow nominee Robert Duvall, at least he had bothered to show up. That humpty "Monster" Brendan Fraser presented some minor award, and who cares what he said, he looked great saying it. We saw Hat Lady Jan Wahl with some gal-pals at a table marked with a card, "Reserved for Jan Wahl." Poor dear. And we're sorry, we did not suffer to see Aerosmith, from whom mothers in the heartland once protected their children, play the Oscars.

When *Gods and Monsters* director Bill Condon won for best adapted screenplay, a thrill went through the crowd — one of our own! But "Hey!" we said later in drunken pique to an available bartender. "That's Gen. Colin Powell! What the 'ell is he doing on the Oscars?"

"I dunno," the bartender responded, warning: "Don't get po-

itical!"

We want to thank our agent, we want to thank our dear sainted mother, who bore us and put up with us, but most of all we want to thank our anonymous benefactors, the male couple who donated most of a bottle of Dom Pérignon to our crew of pressies — B.A.R. assistant editors Mark Mardon and Mark Norby, and Damian, looking both fashionable and topical in a Mao cap and jacket — out for a smoke break and a breath of fresh air.



Out There

said, "Enter, darling!" When we had flown through the Internet zone and landed in her site, Lypsinka said, "Welcome to my www!" which in her case stands for "my wild, wonderful world!" There we were to find all the usual website amenities, such as photo scrapbooks and assorted musings, along with her tour schedule, but all done with undeniable panache. Here was a photo of the Lyp with old-school queen Charles Nelson Reilly at the now-demolished Russian Tea Room in NYC. There was a shot from her fashion spread in the Italian fashion mag *Io Donna*. Or we could scroll through a file on her "Ex-Boyfriends." As if we didn't have enough of our own already.

This new thing of public personalities boasting high-profile websites is getting a little out of hand. When does Lypsinka parodist Lypsinka get her own website? We're holding our cyber-breath for that one.



Bruce Weber

What's Abercrombie & Fitch selling?



Dame Edna and contestant

Fashion plates

We swore to ourselves we wouldn't write about pornography for a great long while, and then along came the Abercrombie & Fitch catalog. The Spring Break 99 issue of *A&F Quarterly*, as it styles itself, is purportedly selling clothes, but of course it's all about young nubile male flesh and the penises hanging thereupon. Homoerotic photo by Bruce Weber is drooling at the same crowd of pseudoprepies, mostly male and shirtless, roughhousing around. These boys' jeans or "penalty shorts" uniformly hang at their crotch as they muscle around with their buds in sun-dappled beachscapes or, say, drench their chiseled torsos with the garden hose. The A&F boys are apparently finished taking group showers (last year's catalog) and are now more into wrestling on the beach and squeezing clumps of wet sand into each other's well-scrubbed faces. Ultimately, the photos are all about penis, so it's more than a tad ironic that, despite the mag's strict no-genitals-in-the-pics policy, there is in fact one penis totally exposed in the magazine. It belongs to the monkey hoisting a surfboard on the front cover.

Lyplock

We responded to an invitation to "clique [sic] onto the web" last week for the debut of sycn queen Lypsinka's website, www.lypsinka.com. The point-and-click field

Houseguests

And we think American television is scary: *Dame Edna's Neighbourhood Watch* makes its US debut on home video, so we watched a few episodes of the series. The program turned out to be rather a sadistic version of a game show in which three women are plucked from the audience in supposed serendipity and insulted by Edna in her usual way. Then they are whisked onstage and cruelly promised riches the production clearly has no intention on bestowing on them (a hilarious sequence ensues in which sad old bag Madge drapes herself around a Ferrari and gawks at the nose of a Concorde.)

But this is all prelude. The true horror of the show is that, unbeknownst to one of the contestants, the production company has run around her house with a camera crew, and we are about to see the footage, with Edna as commentator the whole way.

The possibilities for snooping into undies drawers, closets and embarrassing decor are endless, and factor in Madge, who opens the door to the camera crew and does the cabinet-opening. In one memorable scene, she puts on the nightgown hanging in the master bedroom and whirls around, finally collapsing on the bed. "You'd better hope she takes it off," Edna tells the horrified homeowner. "She doesn't wear deodorant."

It's like that creepy moment in *David Lynch's Lost Highways* when the evil dwarf played by Robert Blake tells Bill Pullman at a cocktail party, "I'm in your house right now" and then dares him to call home on his cell phone. You know something evil has gotten in, and though the butt of the joke laughs merrily and hugs hubby at the end (he'd been the one to let in the cameras), you know she goes home and fumigates. ▼

Human Oscars at the Academy of Friends benefit bash at Fort Mason

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Lypsinka



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1999-2000 ACT season announced Homosexual tendencies

by Richard Dodds

Gay love, both tragically realized and achingly unrequited, provides the centerpieces for two productions in ACT's 1999-2000 season, announced this week.

Cutting-edge director Mark Lamos will stage Christopher Marlowe's *Edward II*, which recounts the tragic results when the young 14th-century king begins an open love affair with another man. Lamos, who is openly gay, directed the "Broadway-style" production of *La Bohème* for the San Francisco Opera in 1996.



Tom Stoppard

Tom Stoppard's *The Invention of Love* will be the other production with homosexual tendencies. The theater called a press conference last week with the playwright (and Oscar-winning screenwriter

of *Shakespeare in Love*) in attendance to herald ACT's coup in securing the play's American debut. "It's one of the most beautiful unrequited gay love stories," ACT artistic director Carey Perloff said of the play, "and so it's important to bring it to San Francisco."

In the play, first seen at the Royal National Theatre in London in 1997, Stoppard writes about the life and career of poet and classicist A.E. Housman. "Housman died a venerated writer, but his emotional life could not be called a success," Stoppard told the gathering of reporters. "But this is a love story of sorts."

The central love that Housman carried with him from his university days until his death in 1936 was for his heterosexual Oxford classmate Moses Jackson. "Housman's diary suddenly becomes these suppressed broken sentences when he writes about Moses getting married and going to India," Stoppard said. "One gets such waves of love and grief."

When he decided he wanted to write about Housman, Stoppard said he was not aware of the poet's sexuality. "I had secretly hoped that there was some great love for an older woman, so I was a bit alarmed," he said. "I dealt with it by ignoring it. To me, it's an unrequited love story. Gender doesn't matter."

Perloff said Stoppard would attend at least some of the rehearsals prior to the January 2000 opening. He also played an unofficial advisory role during rehearsals for ACT's just-concluded production of *Indian Ink*, which proved to be one of the theater's

biggest box office hits. *The Invention of Love* will be ACT's 10th production of a Stoppard play.

ACT will open its 1999-2000 season with Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's *The Threepenny Opera* in a new translation by Michael Feingold. Along with the Stoppard play, it is one of two productions in the eight-play season that Perloff herself will direct.

The second production will be *Wrong Mountain*, a comedy by David Hirsch (*La Bete*) that will travel directly to Broadway following its world premiere at ACT. Richard Jones, who won a Tony Award for directing the musical *Titanic*, will stage the new play.

Giles Havergal, who adapted and directed the version of *Travels With My Aunt* seen at ACT, will perform similar duty on Edith Wharton's *House of Mirth*. The 1905 novel of manners focuses on Lily Bart and her efforts to rise in society.

A third world premiere set for ACT's season is described as a "loopy version" of Kenneth Grahame's popular children's book *The Wind in the Willows*. David Gordon, whose *The First Picture Show* is the final production in ACT's current season, will adapt and direct the new work, to be titled *Another-Kind-of Wind in the Willows*.

In addition to its annual staging of *A Christmas Carol*, the ACT season will also include an eighth production to be announced at a later date. ▶

'Red, White, and Tuna' Deep in the heart of Texas

by Richard Dodds

When portly Bertha Bumiller makes her entrance in a chartreuse polyester pants suit and bewigged in a mile-high do, there is laughter and applause. But from the opening-night audience at *Red, White, and Tuna*, the reaction was not one of derision for this chunk of small-town visual absurdity.

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Rather it was the happy welcome accorded an old friend.

Greater Tuna creators Jaston Williams and Joe Sears have returned to the Marines Memorial Theatre, one of their favorite stomping grounds, with the third entry in their ongoing saga of life in Tuna, Texas. A couple of new characters are introduced, but mostly it's old favorites, and their choice bits are repeated without



Jaston Williams and Joe Sears in *Red, White, and Tuna*

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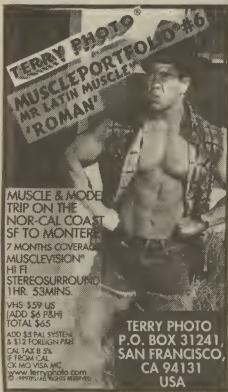
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Arctic passion

The French 'School of Flesh'

by Robert Julian

remains a frozen mask of impassivity. Certain accommodations must be made for the *sangfroid* of the French, but Huppert's performance here gives no hint of the passion or emotional turmoil her character experiences — subterranean or otherwise.

The opening scene of *The School of Flesh* perfectly illustrates why I love French films — and France. Dominique (Isabelle Huppert) and her friend (Danièle Dubroux), heterosexual Parisian females of the over-forty generation, are out for an evening stroll. Dominique suggests a drink at the nearest bar and her friend replies, "I hear it's gay." The two women shrug insouciantly and walk directly into a bar full of gay boys and drag queens, where they are as welcome as any other patron. This matter-of-fact, oh-so-Parisian tone is the blessing and the curse of *School of Flesh*, a tortured romance inspired by a Yukio Mishima novel.

must be made for the sangfroid of the French, but Huppert's performance here gives no hint of the passion or emotional turmoil her character experiences — subterranean or otherwise.

The most interesting actress in the film is Marthe Keller, who portrays Madame Thorpe, a client of Dominique's. Keller, a Swiss-born actress, took a stab at Hollywood stardom in the late '70s as a leading lady in films like *Marathon Man* (1976) and *Fedora* (1978). Her Hollywood career fizzled, but she continues to live and work in Europe. Looking sensational, Keller delivers a wonderfully subtle rendering of a beautiful but vapid society matron whose daughter inserts her-

Director Benoît Jacquot assembles a talented cast to tell the story of Dominique's affair with Quentin (Vincent Martinez), the young hustler she encounters at the bar that fateful evening. A fashion executive, Dominique typifies the elegantly bored bourgeoisie. Divorced and without children, she finds the bisexual young Quentin the perfect combination of dream lover and wayward child. Taking Quentin off the streets — sometimes literally — Dominique installs him in her apartment, and the inevitable problems arise. Quentin has a wandering eye for paying cus-

tomers of every sexual persuasion; despite his professed affection for Dominique, he can't quite keep it in his pants. Vincent Martinez, the younger brother of Olivier Martinez (*The Horseman on the Roof*), makes his film debut in *School of Flesh*. His look and his performance fit the low-rent requirements of the role, although at least in the eye of this beholder, his physical persona does not live up the scripted kudos to Quentin's beauty. And Isabelle Huppert, one of the finest actresses in France, is particularly unmoving in the role of Dominique. When tears pour from the corners of Dominique's eyes, the waterworks create a curious dissonance with her face, which

Isabelle Huppert and Vincent Martinez in *The School of Flesh*

of a May-December love affair. But the same exquisite restraint he brought to that film poorly serves *School of Flesh*. With all the illicit humping going on in this movie, you would think someone might occasionally raise his voice. But it doesn't happen. When Dominique confronts one of Quentin's older male lovers, the two rivals meet for tea at a cafe. Dominique asks the gentleman if her lover is still spending the night with him, and she requests that he not give Quentin any more money. The man, an attorney, respectfully declines to obey her wishes. He then escorts Dominique to the Place des Invalides, where he politely opens the door of a taxi for her. If all amorous rivals behaved this way, playwrights and psychiatrists

would have no work.

The School of Flesh is remarkable, and remarkably French, in its mature handling of sexual themes. Dominique even strikes up an interesting friendship with Chris (Vincent Lindon), a cross-dressing friend of Quentin's who refers to himself as female. But Jacquot's *School of Flesh* only seems to grant degrees in ennui. Even the most devoted Francophiles will find themselves longing for a little Italian pasta, the kind served red hot, on a large platter a scorned lover hurls toward the wall in a jealous rage. ▼

The School of Flesh, in French with English subtitles, opens Friday, March 26 at the Lumiere Theatre.

'Venus' at New Langton Arts **Hotentot to trot**

by Richard Dodds

Television and the movies may reach far more people, but theatre's reach is far afield of the subjects that the mass media need to pay their big bills. Where else but in the theatre could a 19th-century phenomenon known as the Venus Hottentot be brought to such challeng-

ing and thoughtful life, and find audiences eager to take part in the discovery?

Suzan Lori-Parks' *Venus*, being offered by Thick Description at New Langton Arts, offers a window to another world, but the view is clearly designed to reflect back to the audience. Previously seen at the Joseph Papp Public Theater, *Venus* is part documentary, part speculation, part theatrical invention, and part soapbox as it recounts the odd career of Sartie Baartman.

A member of the Khoikhoi tribe in South Africa, Baartman traveled to England in 1810 to become a sideshow attraction. Her unusual claim to fame was the size of her buttocks, described in the play as "distorted beyond all phrases like 'jet lag,' 'freaking out,' and 'hubba-hubba' into the early 19th-century proceedings. The 31 brief scenes include breaks for historical footnotes, autopsy reports, and a melodramatic play within the play. But for

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June A. Lomena and Brian Yates in Suzan-Lori Parks' *Venus*

Compulsion at 24 frames per second

Films of Martin Arnold at Cinematheque

by Gary Morris

Movies have so much in common with dreams that one of Hollywood's most enduring nicknames has been "the dream factory." Of course, there's a downside to every dream, and something closer to the nightmare evolved alongside the safe thrills and romantic fantasies of cinema from the beginning. While some audiences were mesmerized by the novelty of early filmmaking, others bolted at the sight of a giant locomotive steaming fearlessly toward them. And this trend never really let up. In the '70s, stoic theater managers had to spread kitty litter in the aisles at screenings of *The Exorcist* to catch patrons' vomit as they stormed out of the theater. Even supposedly seasoned audiences can still be frightened by the power of 24 frames per second: witness the queer stampede from Todd Verow's grim *Frisk* at the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival a few years ago, or veterans' tales of flashbacks at screenings of *Saving Private Ryan*.

Filmmaker Martin Arnold, born in Vienna in 1959, takes this trend in bizarre new directions in a series of short black-and-white

experimental films that restore much of the novelty, terror, and surprisingly, humor of early cinema. Using elaborate optical and aural manipulations, he turns scenes from old Hollywood movies starring the likes of Judy Garland and Gregory Peck into hilariously weird, black-comic nightmares. The footage he quotes is in itself unremarkable — a man walking into a room where a woman is reading, a middle-class dinner, a romantic interlude between Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney — but he does ultra-precise (frame-by-frame) edits that endlessly repeat the characters' tiniest movements, so they're constantly, frustratingly on the verge of something that never seems to materialize. For some viewers, these "compulsive repetitions" will have the effect *The Exorcist* did on some terrified Catholics; others will find Arnold's sleight-of-hand hypnotic and rewarding.

Horror in slow motion

The first of the three films being shown here is *pièce touchée* (1989), a brief exegesis of a woman reading and a man coming to visit her. This footage comes from an unidentified

movie from the 1940s, and opens innocently enough with the woman sitting in a chair enjoying her book. There's no movement at first, but this is deceptive; an almost imperceptible motion starts to happen with her hand moving slightly up and down, a sign of the slight agitation that eventually explodes as something attempts to open the door. Suddenly this homely scene looks like a horror film, with what may be a monster repeatedly straining at the door. Arnold builds on this arid atmosphere of entrapment and incipient chaos to the point where a kind of vertigo sets in. In a literally dizzying sequence, Arnold introduces maniacal flash-cuts and repeatedly replays and interrupts a scene in which the camera pans across the woman rising and the man walking; this will have some viewers holding their chair as a kind of trance state sets in.

The second film is *passage à l'acte* (1993), which makes a simple dinner scene from *To Kill a Mockingbird* look like a surreal nightmare. The 1950s family is the target here. While Mother sits with a frozen smile and Father (Gregory Peck) reads the paper, their son gets up from the table and opens and closes the screen door repeatedly. The slamming of the door sounds like gunfire, hinting at an unnamed aggression occurring somewhere outside this dream home and perhaps at disturbing forces at work within this family. Arnold's exploitation of these



Judy Garland in *Alone: Life Wastes Andy Hardy*

characters is pitiless; like an evil puppeteer he repeats a shot of Gregory Peck screaming "Jam!" to stultifying effect, while the son twitches back and forth with some unknowable frustration and the daughter makes guttural noises that attain a kind of robot rhythm.

Arnold's most recent work, *Alone: Life Wastes Andy Hardy* (1998), whips up a strange sexual scenario from three of the Judy Garland-Mickey Rooney vehicles. In the opening scenes, Andy embraces his aging mother, but subtle repetitions give this homespun scene an unexpected erotic charge. Arnold brazenly rephotographs Andy's movements to make it appear he's humping the old gal from behind. Meanwhile, Judy is singing in another room,

but it's no ordinary singing. She makes disturbing "peeping" noises, sings backwards, and lingers on phrases like a stuck record: "There must be someone waiting ... waiting ... waiting ... waiting ..." The effect is both comic and chilling, as she stands pathetically with outstretched arms waiting for Mickey, who perhaps because he's just left his mother's bed, never quite connects with poor, demented Judy. ▼

San Francisco Cinematheque's Compulsive Repetitions: An Evening with Martin Arnold plays Sunday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St. Call 558-8129 for information.



Mary Badham in *passage à l'acte*

BOOKS

Casting call



Matthew Jordan Smith

In *Abide with Me*, his Doubleday sequel to *Just As I Am* and his fifth novel, E. Lynn Harris brings back some oners from his cast of characters. There's Raymond Tyler, Jr., now settled in Seattle with his lover Trent, a fraternity brother from his college days; the "sexy and dangerous gray-eyed sportscaster and ex-football player" John Basil Henderson; and Peaches, owner of the Harlem shop "Cuts 'n' Cobblers. Why aren't the people we know this interesting?

E. Lynn Harris will read from *Abide with Me* on Wednesday, March 31 at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. Call 431-0891. ▼

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Scott Wells & Dancers' 'Chaos Theory' at ODC Theater

by Aimée Ts'ao

There are two things I love about Scott Wells' work: it's accessible, and it's intelligent. For his latest run at ODC Theater, he is showing *Chaos Theory*, an evening composed of his latest work *Wrestling With Affection* and *SquareDance*. But chaos is a poorly chosen word in this case, because he shapes his work with such logical intent.

The program notes that *Wrestling With Affection*, although a premiere, "is most certainly an ongoing and evolving effort with more sections to come." The first part, *Score*, performed to music by Ennio Morricone and Leonard Bernstein, and with traditional Turkish music, uses a quintet of men. It opens with a kind of blind man's bluff, the dancers moving around the stage with their eyes closed, groping through space, and when encountering another, gently throwing one of the partners to the floor. Even lone dancers fall down. Eventually they roll into sitting positions and open their eyes before they begin a section of partnering each other while still mostly on the ground. Slowly the tempo picks up as the men stand. Two of them face off, and at last, we get some of that chaos, everyone running around. Wells uses a lot of gestures and movement based on sports. Football tackling and scrimmaging, boxing and karate, oozing machismo. The music changes, and the men now reveal a more tender side of themselves. One of them starts feeling self-conscious and leaves. The partnering becomes more gentle, and eventually all crawl off or roll into darkness.

The second part, *On The Rebound*, is about balls — the kind used for sports, not the ones attached to your body. Wells uses every conceivable permutation and combination of three dancers

and various numbers and sizes of those spherical objects, from ping pong to basketball. Not only do the men bounce the balls off the walls and floor, they bounce themselves against those hard surfaces, as well as each other. The music was created on the spot by Sean Feit playing prepared piano, flute and violin, with samples and mixing by Albert Matthias. Feit also wanders among the dancers and distributes basketballs to each one in the most reverential manner. Though the piece seemed a bit long, I found a lot of interesting material on levels both of choreography and meaning.

The second half of the evening is the premiere of *Square Dance*, which I saw as a work-in-progress last summer. Wells has some wonderful moments of dancers throwing themselves against the walls and being suspended there by the feet of other dancers lying on the floor below, or simply slamming on the wall and melting down to



Scott Wells, Sean Seward, and Jesse Howell

the ground. One woman throws herself backwards, parallel to the floor, and is caught by her partner,

but not before you gasp, wondering if she hasn't performed some kamikaze move. The music, com-

prised of pieces by Stimmhorn, Francisque Caroubel and Valerius Otto, creates an often easy-going, casual atmosphere where the dancers can really enjoy themselves and relish the feeling of exploring the possibilities.

Scott Wells engages us because he is concerned with form as a means to convey ideas. His dancers aren't self-absorbed, trying to show us how beautiful they are with their exquisitely trained bodies. They are showing us how similar they are to us, grappling with gravity both physically and metaphorically. After all, what's the point of an art form if you can't communicate with your audience? And Wells does just that exceptionally well. ▼

Scott Wells & Dancers in *Chaos Theory* continues Thurs.-Sat. March 25 at 8 p.m. at ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. Tickets are \$12-15. Call 863-9834.

ODC/SF

◀ Arts cover

then gracefully excuses herself and leads me out to the empty lobby of ODC Theater in the Mission District, where we hope it will be quiet enough to conduct an interview.

Nelson is Co-Artistic Director of ODC/San Francisco and has been with the company since 1976, when it had its home in Oberlin, Ohio, before it pulled up roots and settled in the Bay Area. She has choreographed more than 36 works and has both composed and commissioned a number of scores to accompany them. She won an Isadora Duncan award in 1987 for outstanding achievement in performance and in 1986 nabbed the "Izzie" for outstanding choreography for her *Scout*, inspired by Lee Harper's

novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*. She is also the Artistic Director of ODC Dance Jam, a nine-member company of kids who perform works by Nelson, Robert Moses, Kimi Okada and Shamou.

When asked why the company has such a short rehearsal period, Ms. Nelson explains, "This year we moved our spring season out of June to March, and took whatever Yerba Buena would give us. And the rhythm of our year got compacted. We try to bring new pieces that we have already done on tour so that we have a couple performances under our belt before we open here."

But as I have just witnessed, this is not always possible. Nelson's piece, *Walk Before Talk*, will have its San Francisco premiere in just ten more days, without the benefit of an out-of-town run. Though the piece was originally commissioned by Diablo Ballet,

with an original score by Michael Nyman, and the choreography already finished, it was amazing that the dancers looked so good after just four days. Because they have all worked together for so long, you could see the trust they had in each other — they could simply throw themselves into the air knowing that someone would be there to catch them.

Another premiere, Artistic Director Brenda Way's *Investigating Grace* "is a beautiful piece to Bach's Goldberg Variations. And we've been performing it since January, so it's grounded, it is fine."

Primary colors

For another premiere, Nelson, Way and Kimi Okada have collaborated choreographically for *Red Yellow Blues*, three sections linked together by the music of Koko Taylor, Etta James and Otis Redding, respectively. In response to my asking what led to the collaboration, Nelson replies, "I said to Brenda [Way] last year I really think we really need to make some group pieces where we bring out certain individuals, and not everybody is on stage all the time. Everybody was in everything, but we didn't have a piece that let them have a moment when they weren't dancing, when they could breathe, on and off stage. Kimi [Red] has a quartet, I

[Yellow] have a trio, and Brenda's [Blues] is a duet and solo... diminishing returns. I'm leaving an improvisational element in it, which is that they get to do a certain playful thing to each other, whenever. It's back to the same issue, how free can you make it, how can you let the spirit come out of the dancers and still maintain the choreography? I'm playing with that."

KT Nelson is also premiering *Things Happen*, "inspired by an adventure I took with Robert Moses [former ODC/SF dancer, and currently Artistic Director of Robert Moses' Kin] on our way to Santa Fe to work in the Opera with Kimi [Okada]. It was a road trip that was wild! We had a hurricane, our car broke down, no one would help us in town. I took the flavor of that adventure, which seemed surreal to me, and took the idea of what I see happening in life right now for many of my friends who are middle-aged. My mother-in-law came to live with us for three years, then got very sick and died. It was very hard on what had been a healthy relationship. Three of my son's friends have leukemia, one of whom just died. You see the stress these things have on healthy families and how the family tries to adapt, gets twisted out of shape, and then re-adapts. I was interested in

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INTERVIEW

Bad to the bone

Nice guy Ryan Phillippe plays rough in 'Cruel Intentions'

by Tim Nasson

Every boy wants to be like him and every girl (and gay boy) wants to be with him. At the moment, Ryan Phillippe has greater sex appeal than last year's heartthrob, Leonardo DiCaprio.

The sexually alluring and completely endearing Phillippe is now wooing audiences in a game of sexual cat and mouse in yet another remake of *Dangerous Liaisons*, Columbia Picture's *Cruel Intentions*. In the latest incarnation of the oft-told tale, twenty-four-year-old Phillippe plays Sebastian Valmont, a character who lacks civility and gets off on his duplicitous behavior.

Phillippe, born in Philadelphia, has recently been seen in a number of films. In *54*, the semi-autobiographical tale of the renowned club's owner Steve Rubell, Phillippe played the sexy customer-cum-54 barback. In *Playing By Heart*, he was the HIV-positive lover of the Angelina Jolie character.

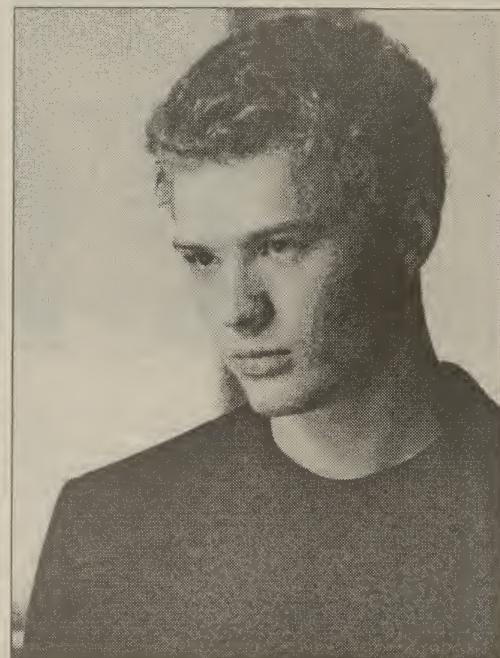
In *Cruel Intentions*, Phillippe gets to play bad to the bone, at least for a portion of the brilliant, witty and sardonic film. There is a redemptive quality to his seemingly evil character.

Cruel Intentions marks the fourth screen adaptation of *Les Liaisons*, the classic and scandalous Pierre Laclos novel of sexual manipulation and romantic war games first published in 1782. Nearly 200 years after the novel's publication, in 1959, Roger Vadim directed the French-language film of the same name, an updated version of the novel, starring Gerard Philipe and Jeanne Moreau. The Royal Shakespeare Company's stage production, which won a New York Drama Critics Circle Award as best foreign play, was written by Christopher Hampton, who also penned British director Stephen Frears' 1987, three-time Oscar-winner *Dangerous Liaisons*, starring John Malkovich, Glenn Close, Michelle Pfeiffer and Uma Thurman. *Valmont* was brought to the screen by Milos Forman in 1988 and starred Colin Firth, Annette Bening, Meg Tilly and Fairuza Balk.

The updated 1999 version, set in New York City's Upper West Side, takes the tale to heights probably never imagined by its 18th-century creator. First of all, *Cruel Intentions* stars two of today's hottest and most promising actors. In addition to Phillippe, television's hottest actress, *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer's* Sarah Michelle Gellar, co-stars as his coke-snorting, plotting stepsister. (One of Manhattan's most promiscuous boys, Phillippe's Valmont is determined to get into her panties.)

Cruise date

Phillippe recounts that the first date he ever went on was in 1986, when he was eleven, to see *Top Gun*. The first girl he ever was in love with, however, he says, was Reese Witherspoon, another co-star in *Cruel Intentions*. They have been together for a couple of years now. Witherspoon plays the virginal teen Annette Hargrove, who has written a diatribe on virginity in *Seventeen* magazine. Valmont is

Ryan Phillippe as Sebastian Valmont in *Cruel Intentions*

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determined to seduce her, mainly because she is a virgin and vows to remain one until married, but also because he has made a bet that he could with his evil stepsister.

Phillippe began his career seven years ago on television's *One Life to Live*. On the daytime soap, he played America's first gay television teen. "One of the best things that ever happened while I was on that show," says Phillippe, "was that fathers who may have been home from work and watching the show, wrote to me that they had reconciled with their gay sons or daughters because of what they had seen on the show. I got at least a dozen letters from fathers who had been absent and distant from their gay teen sons."

"Sexuality doesn't scare me," says Phillippe, sitting in a suite at the Four Seasons in Beverly Hills, wearing a hot, yet simple blue T-shirt and a pair of khakis. "I am all accepting."

His role in *Cruel Intentions* required him to ask for a blow job from another kid, "but it was cut out of this version," according to director Roger Kumble. "It will be in the DVD version, for sure. The line comes when Ryan walks in on Jonathan Jackson and Eric Mabius having sex." Mabius' character is a closeted high school football player who is in bed with *Dawson's Creek's* Joshua "Pacey" Jackson. "Of course, Sebastian set the whole situation up so that he could blackmail Mabius' character," Kumble continues. "When Mabius asks what he can do so that Phillippe will keep quiet, he says, 'Well, this whole situation has gotten me hot and bothered, and you do have great lips, so, why don't you blow me?' Mabius' character says, 'Do you really want me to?' Then Phillippe says, 'Well, come to think of it, you've had enough for one night. You don't deserve me.' We all thought that it made Phillippe's Valmont seem like too much of an asshole, so we decided to edit it out — until the

DVD."

Relish for role

While no one will deny that Sebastian Valmont, who chronicles his conquests in a diary, is for the most part an evil and duplicitous character, Phillippe relished the chance to get into the role. "It would be one thing if he was a completely unredeeming character," says Phillippe, "But his character makes a 180-degree turn."

"Also, it would have been one thing if the movie had something other than the comic book/cartoonish feel to it than it had," adds Phillippe. "But how many kids actually drive around Manhattan in a 1956 Jaguar, plotting and living the life of Reilly, dressed in Armani 24/7?"

Ryan the actor has his own secrets to share. "I had my share of causing trouble as a teen," he says. "When I came to LA, I hung out with a group of kids who, one day, broke into a Robinsons/May [department store]. We hung out there all night smoking cigarettes and laying in the bedroom and living-room displays taking pictures of each other," he recalls, laughing.

Phillippe, who made his big screen debut opposite another TV star (*Party of Five's* Scott Wolf) in Ridley Scott's *White Squall*, has come a long way in only six years. Further than most his age. He is settled in what he and girlfriend separately confirm is a great, long-term relationship, has what anyone in their right mind would consider an up-and-coming career, and seems to be very well-rounded.

Phillippe explains why he thinks he has been able to make it thus far in Hollywood without incident. "If you're a shithead, it's gonna be tough. But if you're not, it's easy," he says.

Next up for Hollywood's boy of the hour? The title role in an upcoming film about gay dancer Rudolph Nureyev. ▼

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Saint Herbert's passion

Blomstedt's return to Davies Hall

by Philip Campbell

The maestro's back. Herbert Blomstedt, Conductor Laureate of the San Francisco Symphony and current Music Director of the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig, returned to his place on the podium at Davies Hall recently for two weeks of subscription concerts.

Blomstedt's visit has become an annual event, and he has earned the open door welcome after ten years at the helm of the SFS. Warm audience receptions reminded us of the meaning of his decade here, even if the enthusiastic and immediate acceptance of Michael Tilson Thomas as his successor has made it easier to accept his departure.

The elder maestro never generated the heat felt from MTT's incendiary presence, and while he gave the organization an important grounding and discipline that attracted international attention, he never achieved or even attempted the kind of star power that comes so easily to Tilson Thomas.

Blomstedt was, and still is, the consummate professional musician — steady, reliable and capable of deep and probing insight. His integrity and established reputation won the SFS an important contract with London Records that garnered prestigious awards, including many critics' prizes and two Grammys. Tours of the United States, Asia and Europe, as well as appearances at international festivals, left the orchestra in fine shape for the much-heralded and hyped arrival of Michael Tilson Thomas.

If Herbert Blomstedt could never match the sheer excitement of an MTT concert, he never failed to deliver considered and accomplished readings of the great musical masterworks. His restrained and elegant approach yielded hundreds of pleasurable evenings and so, too, his recent visit gave another helping of his trademark values — careful and unfussy presentations of large and beautiful compositions. If the results were less than thrilling, they were deeply satisfying in their simplicity and thoughtfulness.

In keeping with the spirit of



Herbert Blomstedt

especially the women, soprano Malin Hartelius and mezzo Ingeborg Danz, appeared bland.

As an "authentic" presentation, Blomstedt's approach may have been more appropriate, while Mattei's solos could be deemed histrionic. In a concert setting, though, they were a jolting reminder that this is a *Passion*, after all.

Familiar territory

Last week found the maestro on very accustomed turf. A well-proportioned program of Mendelssohn, Berwald and Brahms could have easily dissolved into a wash of undifferentiated sound were it not for Blomstedt's clear and constant advocacy of all three composers.

Mendelssohn's *Fingal's Cave* Overture set the tone for the evening. Attention to detail and a nice sense of proportion propelled the piece. Swedish composer Franz Berwald's *Symphony No. 3, Sinfonia singuliere* followed. Poor Berwald didn't earn much acclaim in his lifetime, though he wasn't dismissed, either. Mendelssohn himself didn't have much regard for him, and contemporary critics are sometimes baffled by Herbert Blomstedt's continuing interest. The Third Symphony is a little quirky at times, but I like it and can understand why the Swedish-raised conductor persists in trying to find new audiences for the ingratiating tunes and unexpected bursts of energy that fill its pages.

The second half of the bill was given over to the *Symphony No. 3* in F major, Opus 90 of Johannes Brahms. I often think my favorite Brahms symphony is the one I'm listening to at the time. Blomstedt's well-known affinity for this composer had me convinced the Third is best of all — at least, for the rest of the evening.

Warm and generously conceived, it was a wonderful performance marked by some of the sweetest string playing of the season. Blomstedt's former colleagues were clearly in sync, and a rush of good memories made the tail end of his visit a meaningful tribute to his title as Conductor Laureate, and an inducement to invite him back as often as he wishes to appear. ▼

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Tickling the ivories

Pianists to watch out for

by Tim Pfaff

It's spring, and the pianists are busting out all over. Some of the scene's best ivory merchants are due in April — but they'll all have their work cut out for them to top performances we've heard recently. On the classical side, Yevgeny Kissin's recital last month, reviewed here, set a standard of instrumental mastery and musical vision that could at best be matched, not bettered. And Brad Mehldau's jazz sets at Yoshi's March 2 announced the arrival of another piano young master on that scene and left all the veterans I know who heard him, myself including, reaching back years for memories of playing that transporting.



Brad Mehldau

In two sets spanning three hours that night, the 28-year-old coverboy of this month's *Jazziz* (which contains a particularly fine feature on the still little-known Mehldau by Tom Moon) skewered his rapt audience with uncommonly concentrated, sophisticated yet daring renditions of jazz and pop standards and his own already recorded and new compositions. The evening peaked with a sheerly transcendent "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered" that proved that under the right circumstances, a couple hundred people can hold their collective breath for ten minutes or more. From an ineffably spare tracing of the familiar melody — unadorned, reduced to its barest essentials and rendered with a keyboard touch of consummate refinement — Mehldau launched, without a hint of effort, into an exploration of the music's implications that took it to a dizzying peak and, precipitously, back to its stillest, most rarefied essence. Simultaneously exhilarating and exhausting (in the sense of leaving no aspect of the tune unprobed), this was playing, and on the pianist's part, *listening*, of nearly unbearable intensity.

The chameleonic aspects of the pianist's genius were manifested, characteristically, in his quicksilver changes of harmony, register and even style, each without the slightest grinding of gears, mental or instrumental, and integrated into the whole with extraordinary, after-the-fact inevitability. More impressive was his consolidation of an altogether individual, internally consistent, soaring, penetrating musical voice.

In tune after tune, Mehldau

displayed a rhythmic acuity granted only to the greatest instrumental musicians. What at first seemed the illusion of his being able to maintain different rhythm in each hand turned out to be exactly that, but with the two related to the point of fusion. Even at their most elastic, his rhythmic figurations obeyed a sense of inviolable spatial volume; a microbeat subtracted anywhere resurfaced, magically, before the phrase end — supreme freedom achieved through equally magisterial discipline. Harmonies of the most advanced sort were as much implied as asserted. Chords, heard rarely, were earned, not lavished. It almost seemed that Mehldau was proposing harmonies built on chords made up of the notes left out of rippling ascending or descending scales (the spoken notes rendered with a bel canto evenness of texture).

Magical as his playing was, there was never a sense of sleight of hand but rather of something at once more animal and more mindful, an impulse passing uninterrupted from mind to ear to hand to instrument. Music-making of that caliber communicates at the highest frequencies, and Mehldau led his trio members,

bassist Larry Grenadier and drummer Jorge Rossy, to solo summits of their own, glued his audience to their seats and rearranged molecules all around.

There's no telling when Mehldau will be back. His Yoshi's set list closely matched the one reported in *Jazziz*, which included

new tunes of his own, including the utterly remarkable

"Madrid." (He seems to be spending most of his time in Europe these days.) Maybe there's a new CD on the way. In the meantime, a small label

called Fresh Sound New Talent has released two CDs of early Mehldau with quartet, live from Barcelona in 1993. The playing may not be at the exalted level of six years later, but you can already hear, plainly, the real thing.

Next round

Personally, I'm glad there's been some time for Mehldau's sound to disperse. By the time the next round of pianists begins, I'll more likely be eager to hear them. It's always a satisfaction to hear Dubravka Tomsic, who brings a program tailor-made for her gifts to the Herbst Theatre for San Francisco Performances April 6. On two consecutive Sundays (April 18 and 25), Cal Perform-



Notes From All Over



Dubravka Tomsic



Murray Perahia

mances will present Stephen Kovacevich, a pianist I've long admired for the integrity of his sound and the depths of his interpretations, in solo recitals in Berkeley's acoustically intimate Hertz Hall. The programs will include Beethoven's first and last two sonatas, territory in which Kovacevich has left a distinctive mark despite the crowded field, and the last two Schubert sonatas. There he'll be competing with important new recordings of the Schubert, gravely beautiful and searching ones by Mitsuko Uchida on Philips and playing of disarming simplicity and directness on a brand new Hyperion CD from Steven Hough, another young Turk of the piano. I'm betting on Kovacevich to hold his own even in that company.

Pianophiles are up against it April 11, when a fast car and fast food make it possible to catch two of the world's leading pianists, Murray Perahia at Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall at 3 p.m. and

Kristian Zimerman at Davies at 7 p.m. As it must, Cal Performances is billing Perahia as the "Poet Priest" of the piano, and anyone with a long memory knows what they mean. But to these ears the once-great pianist has seemed artistically stalled (and technically compromised) ever since his much-publicized hand accident a few years back, and even his program looks like a twice-told tale (though he's playing the late Schubert sonata, the C minor, that Kovacevich isn't).

I'll be saving myself for Zimerman, one of the most rightly celebrated musicians of the day and a pianist who seems incapable of doing anything less than brilliant and individual. His program is a thoughtful selection of Chopin and Schumann, too rarely encountered in recitals, including the latter's Sonata No. 1. He's been the favored pianist of the world's top conductors. His recital on the Symphony's Great Performers series is likely to show why. ▼

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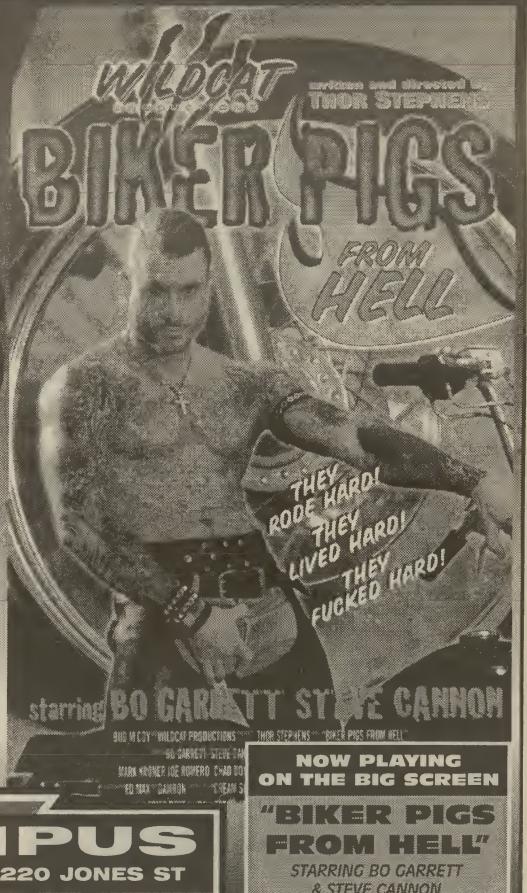
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by Mister Marcus

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The nominating process for the awards concluded last Saturday, at which time the Golden Gate Guards announced the names of the contenders.

Now's your chance to pick your favorites. Voting began this past Monday, March 22 and continues through midnight on Wednesday, April 7. Vote early and often! Balloons are only \$1 at Daddy's, the Eagle and the Powerhouse.

The award categories and the nominees for this year are:

Punchboard: Ed Morgan, Tony Apedaile, Ray Tilton and Rick Lubrano.

Top of the Year: Philip Turner, Don Thompson, Paul Gabriel and Alan Selby.

Golden Globes: Ray Tilton, Chester Rice, George Carreras and Michael Gagne.

Nature Boy: Emery Frank, Robert Larabee, Den Calkins, and Andy Rose.

Golden Arm: Tom Rodgers, Omar Moseley, Gregory McDowell and Russ Libby.

Best Male Performance by a Female Impersonator: Donna Sachet, "Ernestine," Tim Bishop and Empress Sheba.

Best Female Performance by a Male Impersonator: T.J. Istvan, Pushy Phyllis, Keith Truitt and Scott Karmuth.

Paper Wedding Dress: Ray Tilton, Frank Vasconcellos, Mario Torrigiano and Jon Ayers.

Voyeur of the Year: Tim Bishop, Mr. Marcus, Don Thompson and Sean Wright.

Silver Lips: Donna Sachet, Joel Feraci, Andy Anderson and Mr. Marcus.

Leap Frog: Mike Spencer, Tony Apedaile, Ray Tilton and Omar Moseley.

Cob Web: "Mama" Reinhardt, Jerry Roberts, Dick Manning and John Currier are listed.

Best Performance in a Three-Way: Ray Tilton, Steve Gaynes' family, Dirk Martia and Werner Tillinger.

Prince of Piss: Chuck Rigsby, Tim Turner and Warren Cave.

Tea Room Commando: Tom Galante, Don "Ho" Tse, "Ernestine" and Robert Larabee.



Mister Marcus

Big men, big smiles: the Mr. SF Leather winners on Friday, March 12 were (L to R) first runner-up BJ Cavnor; Mr. SF Leather '99 Werner Tillinger; and second runner-up Glennon Sutter.

The Divine Miss M: Scott Karmuth, Peter Fiske, Michael Gilbert and Dick Manning.

Size Queen: Besides everybody else, the most blatant are Mike Spencer, Tim Bishop and Don "Ho" Tse.

Cock sucker of the Year: Mike Spencer, Tom Galante and Tony Apedaile.

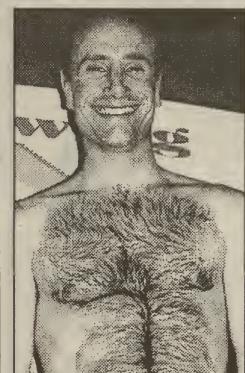
Dick of Death:

Philip Turner, Chuck Rigsby, Stacey Johnson, Martyn Jones, and "Daddy" Kirk.

Pushy Bottom: Unicorn Escobedo, Jeff Minster, Todd Kepus and Tony Bowser.

Bootlicker: Glenn Tomblin, John Currier, Dick Manning and Emery Frank.

Golden Boy: George Carreras, Werner Tillinger, Ray Tilton and Tony Apedaile.



The awards ceremony will take place at the Eagle on Saturday, April 11 at a beer bust. Donna Sachet and Lenny Broberg will emcee the event, which will feature entertainment and lots of surprises. Good luck to all the nominees!

Another chest bared

Last Thursday, March 18, Mr. June 2000 was chosen for the Millennium bare chest calendar, with Doug Harrison, T.J. Istvan, Paul Tucci and Michael Wieland running six hopefuls through their paces at yet another packed Powerhouse.

After all the shenanigans both on and offstage (Andy Anderson always has fun at the contests!), the calendar spot went to Chris Hoffman (another fuzzy one).

The runner-up was David Polizzi.

Mr. July will be chosen tonight, Thursday, March 25. Judges for the contest will be Mr. SF Leather Werner Tillinger, Daddy's Boy Todd Kepus, and John Trubino of the Golden Gate Guards.

Over the weekend, six more leather titles were awarded to various hopefuls. Among the contests were the International Master and slave competition in Atlanta; Mr./Ms. New Mexico Leather in Albuquerque; and Mr./Ms. Mid-American Leatherman and Leatherwoman at the Cell Block in Chicago (a feeder to the American Brotherhood Weekend in Washington, DC next month).

At my deadline, the only results I got were from Atlanta, where two leather women, Khiki and Samantha Cavannaro, took the titles. This coming weekend, Seattle's Leather Pride week continues. I'll be there this weekend to judge the Mr. Washington State Leather contest. In the meantime, keep living, keep laughing and keep loving. Just do it in leather! ▼

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, March 25

Choosing Mr. July 2000 for the Millennium Bare Chest calendar at 2100 hours. Win \$100, gifts, adoration, a new husband, and fame.

If you're in Seattle tonight, attend the slave auction at the Seawolf Tavern, presented by Vincent Edd and Steve Campbell.

Friday, March 26

Victory party for Werner Tillinger, Mr. SF Leather '99 at the Edge beginning at 2000. Come and meet our representative at IML in May.

Saturday, March 27

Mr. Western New York Leather contest at Chaires in Syracuse, presented by the Journeymen MC.

Here in SF, The 15 Association monthly play party. You know the rules. BYOB. Guests must ar-

rive with you!

In Seattle? The Mr. Washington State Mr. Leather contest at Neighbors with lots of entertainment. Always a sterling event in that beautiful city.

Sunday, March 28

The 15 Association hosts the Eagle beer bust today from 1500-1800, \$8, food. No other details at my deadline.

Wednesday, March 31

The usual madness prevails at the Edge for their Full Moon Party/Contest. Eric Weinmann says, "Any asshole can enter." Got it?

Thursday, April 1

Mr. August 2000 Bare Chest Calendar contest, at 2130, at the Powerhouse. Judges: Patrick Batt, Graylin Thornton and Mike Wolford.

Happy b'day to us

by Sweet Lips

Congratulations to the *Bay Area Reporter*! Our first issue was published April 1, 1971, so this coming April Fool's Day starts our 28th year — and they said it would not last. Not to toot my own horn, but I have been "writing" my column here since Issue #1 — longer than Mr. Marcus by anyone's measuring stick. Thanks to the wonderful staff for all their help. They know I can use all the help I can get. (And an extra special happy b'day to publisher Bob Ross on Friday, April 21!)

Well, I'm packing my bags, and the 1100 Club will be hosting an "Adios Amigos" Party on Sunday, March 28, 10 a.m.-Noon, as Bart Dreyer and Yours Truly, Sweet Lips, leave the next day for a vacation in beautiful Puerto Vallarta. The popular chef Dennis ("Qué será será quesadilla") Tyler will be preparing some great bar nachos.

Sorry, right number: On Satur-

day, April 3, Linda's Phone Booth on South Van Ness will be celebrating their 25th anniversary, with a buffet by Dennis ("Tapas 'n' Taps") Tyler, special guests, entertainment and prizes. Let's see how many of us we can get into the Phone Booth. Love ya, Linda! John ("Boom Boom") is at the New Swallow nights, the place to go for great piano music. Sweet Lips has been on top of some pianos herself — and underneath some piano tuners.

The Hob Nob Lounge has the handsome Peter on the plank Tues.-Fri. nights. You like him, don't you, Miss Greta Grass? Just don't smother him with your weighty love!

I ran into Tom Morgan and Lou the other day, and both are looking great. Circle J is running smoothly with them there.

There will be a celebration of

life for Bob Doherty, aka Tacky Hacky, on Saturday, March 28, Noon at the Giraffe Video and Chandelier Lounge, 1131 Polk St.

The 1100 Club has Amateur Strip Night in Tuesdays, starting at 9 p.m. Saturday is Go-Go Boys night, starting at 10 p.m. If you want to be a contestant — and you do! — see Rick the manager.

The Lone Star Saloon will be closed Monday and Tuesday, April 12-13, as Kevin the owner is taking the entire staff, including

Jerry Olsen, to Palm Springs. What a great thing for a business owner to do!

I'll be back at work at the 1100 Club (Polk & Post) from 6 a.m. to Noon on Thursday, April 8. Come look for me then and drink breakfast with me. I guarantee I'll have some new surprises up my Xtra-Large sleeves. ▼

Cocktail Hour



Red, White, Tuna

◀ page 31

apology.

Still, there have been changes in tone since *A Tuna Christmas* most recently revisited these characters. Subtle touches and rounded corners have tempered the earlier cartoon approach, trading some raucous merriment for human introspection. Give credit to Williams and Sears for letting their characters evolve, while still providing audiences enough of what they've come to expect.

The subtleties extend beyond the writing and into the performances, at least since I first saw Sears and Williams in a much larger theater in another city. Perhaps they play it differently on their reading of local conditions, or perhaps after all this time they have reduced the characters' tics,

gestures, and personas to their essences in a less-is-more approach.

The set-up for this return to Tuna is the little town's annual Fourth of July celebration, with various subplots about the ruthless competition for festival queen, the pending marriage between radio host Arles Struvie and the widowed Bertha Bumiller, the emergence of second-hand gun dealer Dede Snavely's missing husband from a UFO, a bad batch of potato salad, and the return to Tuna of two aging flower children.

Star Birdfeather and Amber Windchime, who were known as Fern and Bernice before they fled Tuna for Lubbock in the '60s, are the major character additions in this *Tuna* outing. In their tie-dyed muumuu and braided hair, these anachronistic hippies look ridiculous yet surprisingly familiar.

Sears (the big one) creates a particularly recognizable character in Star, something that distinguishes all of his women characters. The raspy-voiced Williams (the thin one) scores most strongly with his laconic portraits of male characters.

There's some sense of finality about *Red, White, and Tuna*, as various characters find their situations resolved. Sears and Williams have talked about ending their *Tuna* tales with the current show, but I don't think audiences are as ready to let go. I for one would love to know how these folks would dress up for Halloween. Scary. ▼

Red, White, and Tuna will run at Marines Memorial Theatre through March 28. Tickets are \$25-\$39. Call (toll free) 1-877-771-6900.

Venus

◀ page 32

all the manipulations of theatrical artifice, the play is at its best when most simply exploring the title character as a person with needs, feelings, and ambitions.

As Baartman, June A. Lomena creates a compelling character who can be alternately dignified, sullen, greedy, and childlike. Outfitted with a padded derriere under a leotard, Lomena manages to find an authenticity in the role that helps provide an authority to

the entire production.

The rest of the cast, most of whom play multiple roles, is admirable and occasionally memorable. The latter category includes Rhonnie Washington, passionate as the doctor who rescues the Venus Hototot from the sideshow for reasons both humane and unnerving; Molly Goode, who offers a feisty performance as the Mother-Showman who runs the freak show; and Johnny Moreno as a heavily emoting husband with uncontrollable urges for the Venus Hototot.

Even with the many imaginative touches provided by director Tony Kelly, the evening can seem long, especially as messages already delivered keep getting retransmitted. *Venus* is also a play that can sometimes try too hard to be edgy, becoming at times clumsily obtuse. But in the end, the strange and intriguing trip it takes with an audience is one that can happen only in the theatre. ▼

Venus will run through April 11 at New Langton Arts. Tickets are \$10-\$15. Call 565-0331.

ODC/SF

◀ page 34

how these things pull us apart.

"There were a lot of forces involved — natural forces, racial forces, social forces and magical God forces, Fate. I also wanted to deal with the idea of being invisible, not being dealt with in society, being marginalized, being dis-counted."

Nelson worked with Raz Kennedy to create an original score. "It's based on breathing. Different kinds of breathing, the human breath, the landscape breath and the God breath. It has a very percussive beginning, then we add piano, drums and singing, other melodic elements. I love the score."

The choreography itself is in three sections, with the dancing in the middle sandwiched between Prologue and Epilogue. "I'm playing with form and trying to go on an adventure content-wise. I don't know if it will work. I'm feeling optimistic right now. It's got a great flavor, and an interesting style came out of the process."

Choreographers are in the difficult positions of always having to show all their work to an audience, unlike painters, for example, who carefully choose what to exhibit (or so we hope.) Nelson continued, "Painters have other paintings underneath their paintings. I'm making this piece called *Things Happen*. It may not quite work. Three years down the road, we may see the progression of

that piece in its totally realized form. We have threads of different pieces going through us. We're working on them just like painters, we have layers, and eventually we come up with a product. We arrive, and the right elements come together. We choreographers aren't allowed artistic process. As artists, we have to be available to the audience to talk about our work so they can get interested in the process, not just the product." ▼

ODC/San Francisco's spring season, Dancing Downtown, runs March 25-April 3, 1999 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard St. Tickets are \$10-32. Call 978-ARTS.

a taste of leather

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OUT&ABOUT

Fri 26

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

A celebration of women's music, benefiting the film *Radical Harmonies: The Story of Women's Music*. Two evenings (including 3/27) celebrating Women's Music heritage. With Gwen Avery, Linda Tillery, Nancy Vogl and others. Plus advance screening of *Radical Harmonies*. Performances and audience testimonies will be recorded and used in the film. \$22 advance; \$25 door. 7:30pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland (corner of Mountain and Thornhill). Reservations: 510-339-1832.

Cowell Theatre

"Other Minds V" music festival. Tonight: Margaret Leng Tan performs diverse compositions on toy pianos, including Stephen Montague's *Mirabella* (A Tarantella), and Lennon/McCartney's *Eleanor Rigby* arranged by Toby Twining. Also Erollyn Wallen's *Rapture*; the American premiere of Antonio Pinho Var-

gas' *Mirrors*; and jazz legends Sam Rivers (saxophone) and Julian Priester (trombone) collaborating on a new work, with live electronics by Tucker Martine. \$18 (\$16 students/seniors). Pre-concert talk at 7pm; performances at 8pm. Fort Mason Center. 441-3687.

Yerba Buena Center

ODC/San Francisco performs "Dancing Downtown '99," two different dance programs of four world premieres and three seasonal hits, including pieces to the music of Koko Taylor, Etta James, Philip Glass, John Lee Hooker, Jimi Hendrix, J.S. Bach and others. Thru 4/3. \$10, \$22, \$32. 8pm (7pm on 3/28). 701 Mission St. 978-ARTS

Studio @ Rhino

"Woody & Me," a play of sex, love, God, and critical theory, by Brad Erickson. Directed by Dan Oliverio. The comedy features Erickson, Kevin Clarke, and Kikelemo Adedeji portray-

Margaret Leng Tan demonstrates the art of playing toy pianos during the "Other Minds V" music festival at Cowell Theater. See Friday and Saturday.



Calendare by Mark Mardon

Hot on the recorder

The recorder is a very strange instrument," concedes Horacio Franco, one of the world's foremost interpreters of recorder music, who promotes the ancestral European instrument as multifaceted and highly expressive, capable of rendering far more than just Renaissance and Baroque music. Still, sighs Franco, speaking in sweet musical tones flavored with a Mexican accent: "many people consider it like the village idiot of instruments."

"Why did I choose the recorder?" Franco responds to a question. "I think I have a spiritual identification with the recorder sound somehow, and I had it when I was young."

Franco came to the instrument at an early age — he was only 11 when he gave his first solo concert in Mexico City — and not only has he stuck with it (unlike so many schoolchildren who toy with the recorder for a time before moving on to more "adult" instruments), Franco injects charisma into his performances.

"Horacio is easily the most virtuoso recorder player in the New World," attests Nicholas McGegan, conductor of the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, with which Franco will be appearing at San Francisco's Herbst Theatre on March 26.

Franco wields his (admittedly phallic) instrument seductively. It helps that pretty much his whole life, he's been open about his sexuality. Even in recitals, he eschews sexless tuxedos, preferring to wear leather and other fetching gay attire.

"I've known I was gay since I was born," says Franco. He had his first fling when he was 11. After four years of music study in Mexico, he relocated to Holland at age 17, where he met his first long-term lover, a Dutch piano player his age. He mastered the Dutch language, which he still speaks today.

Meanwhile, Franco rehearsed relentlessly: "I studied in a very hard way. I was very disciplined." His free-spirited nature (Franco once created a sensation by posing nearly nude with the recorder for a publicity shot) is reflected in his approach to the instrument:

"You can make of the recorder what you want. You can make it very sophisticated, very brutal, very stupid, or very conceptual — I mean, there are so many languages of recorder playing. It's stupid if you try to play in a very narrow, stiff way. The exploding sound effects of the recorder are marvelous." ▼



Horacio Franco flaunts his instrument.

Horacio Franco performs selections from Vivaldi, Corelli and others with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra on March 26 at Herbst Theatre. For information, call 392-4400.

ing characters caught up in a tangled student-professor relationship. Produced by First Seen. \$15-\$18. 8:30pm (5pm & 8pm on Sat.). Thru 4/10. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. (at S. Van Ness). 861-5079.

Brady Street Theater

Kunst Staff presents "White Time," described as "the art of the schizophrenic in-between, the extreme neutral, the multiple zero, the dirty white, the broken time of a long forgotten future." Includes a full-length dance play by Tomi Paasonen, an art exhibition with paintings, sculpture and photo installations, a screening of independent films, and live experimental music. After-hours party. \$16 (dance play, films, gallery, music) or \$6 (films, gallery, music). 7:30pm-2am. 60 Brady St. (btwn. Market & Otis). 835-2124.

Intersection for the Arts

Deke Weaver performs his comedic play, "The Crimes and Confessions of Kip Knutzen: A Hockey Way of Knowledge," co-directed by Jayne

Wenger and Jim Cave, with live music by Mark Growden along with Bob Davis. \$10-\$14 sliding. 8pm (7:30pm Sundays). Thru 3/28. 446 Valencia St. (near 16th St.). 626-3311.

Theatre Rhinoceros

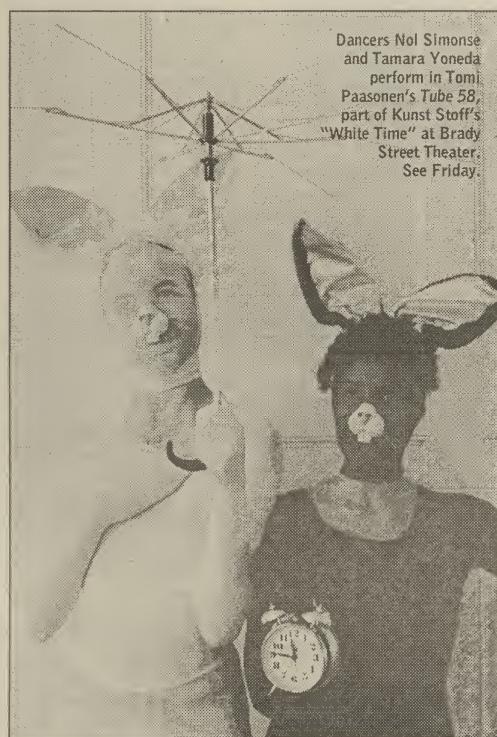
"SBF: Single Black Female," playwright Lisa B. Thompson's comic take on finding the right man, or woman, in an urban '90s environment. Directed by Colman Domingo. 8pm. Thru 4/10. 2926 16th St. (at Luna Sea, upstairs from Theatre Rhino in the same building). Tix: 861-5079.

Theatre Rhinoceros

Held over (again): Ronnie Larsen's 10 Naked Men, a comedy about prostitution in Hollywood, with lots of eye-candy. Now featuring pornstar Ryan Idol. \$20-\$25. 5pm & 8pm (Sun. @ 3pm & 7pm). Thru 4/11. 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Josie's

Tom Orr's one-man show, "Sweet Parody!" With comic retakes on classic Broadway showtunes. Birdie-Bob Watt accompanies on piano. \$12



Dancers Nol Simonsen and Tamara Yoneda perform in Tomi Paasonen's "Tube 58," part of Kunst Staff's "White Time" at Brady Street Theater. See Friday.

(\$10 seniors/students). 8pm & 10pm. Thru 4/17. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. (at Market & Noe). 861-7933.

550 Barneveld

New Wave City DJs Skip & Shindog salute New Wave icon Robert Smith and the Cure, playing lots of their music all night. Two rooms with live DJs, a video lounge, and a hang-out bar room. The second room will feature a full hour of Cure at midnight. \$5 before 10pm; \$10 after. 9pm-3am. 21+ w/D. Located in the industrial area parallel to Bayshore, near Goodman's Lumber off 101, between Oakdale and Industrial streets. Info: 675-LOVE.

Sat 27

The Eagle

Gallo Design Studio presents new fashion ideas for 1999 from Black Beard Leather, Huib Petersen, and Gallofornia, with a fashion show and beer benefit for the Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic. Designer Paul Gallo says: "This year I have been inspired to create Gallofornia, my new line of illustrated clothing.

It's the perfect combination of my drawings and my clothing." Shoes and boots provided by Foot Worship. Free (donations welcome). 9pm. 12th & Harrison Streets. Info: 931-8863.

SF County Fair Bldg.

The 1999 Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair features Harry Britt (former president of the SF Board of Supervisors), poet/publisher/bookseller Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Nestor Makhno (Minister of Information for the Mission Yuppie Eradication Project), the Biotri Baking Brigade (best known for pieing Mayor Willie Brown), author Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz (*Red Dirt: Growing Up Okie*), and many others. 10am-6pm. Lincoln Way and Ninth Ave. Info: Bound Together Bookstore, 431-8355.

MACT Citihike

Men of All Colors Together take their monthly "Citihike" for the fit and fit-aspiring. Meet at Starbucks at Church & Market St. shopping center. Hike to Fort Mason. Depart promptly at 11am, rain or shine. Free. Info: 675-0201.

Cowell Theatre

"Other Minds V" music festival. Tonight: Luc Ferrari presents the U.S. premiere of his composition *Presque rien* No. 4, "La remontée du village." Margaret Leng Tan performs more selections for toy piano, including John Cage's *Suite for Toy Piano*. Mary Ellen Childs employs rigorous, kinetic choreography to create "visual percussion" on "rolling stock," including office chairs and roller skates, featuring the percussion ensemble CRASH. \$18 (\$16 students/seniors). Pre-concert talk at 7pm; performances at 8pm. Fort Mason Center. 441-3687.

Mark I. Chester studio

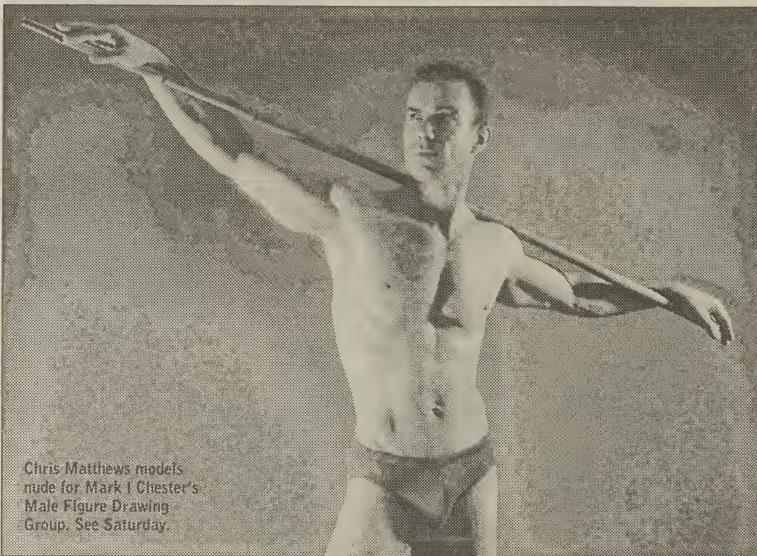
Male Figure Drawing. A special session of one-hour poses open to sketchers of all skill levels. Classical nude modeling by Chris Matthews. \$10 donation. 1:30pm. 1229 Folsom St. Reservations: 621-6294.

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

A celebration of women's music, benefiting the film *Radical Harmonies: The Story of Women's Music*. Featuring Margie Adam, Alix Dobkin, Robin Flower and Libby McLaren, The Washington Sisters, and Ronnie Gilbert. \$22 advance; \$25 door. 7:30pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland (corner of Mountain and Thornhill). Reservations: 510-339-1832.

Castro Country Club

Ethnic Heritage Celebration! Hosted by Gay & Lesbian People of Color Alcoholics Anonymous. Attend the POC AA meeting at 19th & Dolores, from 4-5:30pm, then come to the Castro Country Club for dinner (5:30-7pm) and entertainment (7-8pm). \$5 (free with conference registration). 4058 18th St. (near Castro St.). Info: 282-8471.



Chris Matthews models nude for Mark I Chester's Male Figure Drawing Group. See Saturday.

Sun 28

Josie's

Miss Gay America Pageant Preliminary, presented by A Penny in the Pot Productions. Loaded with stiff competition. Contestants will strut their stuff to qualify for the Miss Gay America 2000 pageant taking place in Washington, DC in October. Categories include Male Interview, Creative Fashion, Evening Gown, Talent, and On-Stage Interview. \$15 at door. 6pm. Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. Info: John Daniel at 386-9145.

1015 Folsom

Gus presents "Mass," the pre-Palm Springs white party, featuring DJ Phil B. of "Aftershock." \$15. 6pm-midnight. Early arrival encouraged. Info: www.gusrepresents.com.

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Sweet Ridge hike. See where Gaspar de Portola discovered SF Bay in 1769. It's a moderate 5-mile hike with a 1,000-foot elevation gain. Meet at 9:45am under the big Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Carpool cost is \$4. Club info: 487-6410.

Mon 29

Herbst Theatre

Openly gay novelist and journalist Armistead ("Tales of the City") Maupin holds forth on his hugely popular creations, and on gay San Francisco as he sees it. \$17. 8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix at City Box Office, 153 Kearny St., Suite 402, or call 392-4400.

Theater Artaud

Special event: "Millennial Invocations," a ritual candle-lighting ceremony. A participatory event designed by special guests Joe Jennings and Victoria Rue, celebrating the spring season and inviting good wishes for the millennium. Part of the "50 Pillows and a Rug" series. Bring a pil-

low and dress warmly. \$5 optional. 7pm. 450 Florida St. 437-2700.

Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen's Tuesday Night Series features Shinichi Koga's "Dust in a Gray Room," the third of the Ink Boat series. \$10-\$12. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St. at Project Artaud. Tix: 621-7978.

Tue 30

MCC

Penny Nixon and Kent Brimhall host the final installment in the series "Queer Sexual Ethics." Tonight's topic: "Sexuality and Social Reality." It asks: "What is the relationship between the larger culture and our individual sexual desires, practices, and identities? Is our sexuality a politically neutral starting point or a culturally informed result?" Free. 7-9pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St. No reservations required.

Noh Space

Brechin Flounoy presents "The Field Brechin Flounoy presents "The Field Project," a Butoh performance featuring Sarah Shelton Mann, Keith Hennessy, June Watanabe, and the students of "The Field Project." Part of Theatre of Yugen's Tuesday Night Series. \$10-\$12. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St at Project Artaud (btwn. Florida & Alabama streets). 621-7978.

A Different Light

Eric Gustafson reads from Cinderella is a Man. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Wed 31

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Preview: "The Nanjing Race," written by Reggie Cheung-Leen and directed by Arturo Catricala. A gay Japanese American metals trader is in Asia for the first time on business. At his hotel, he meets two valets. One is des-

perate to leave the country, the other is obsessed with past historical injustices. The man falls for one of them, but the other proves more useful to him. \$12 (\$16 on Thursdays and Sunday Matinees; \$20 on Fridays & Saturdays). 8pm. Preview run thru 4/9; regular run is 4/10-5/8. 25 Van Ness Ave, lower lobby. Tix/Info: 861-8978.

A Different Light

E. Lynn Harris reads from *Abide with Me*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Thu 1

The Casting Couch

Screening and fundraiser, "The Catch," a new short film from Heidi Ellis ("Bike Messenger Boy"). A hilarious look at queers, beers, footballs, and butt-slapping. \$5. 8-11pm (the short film screens continuously all night). 950 Battery St. 552-4546.

Harvey Milk Institute

Class begins: "Scratch Bakery Dance Workshop" with Dominique Zeltzman. Dancers of all levels of experience come together to expand their performance vocabularies. Students create dances together. Six Thursdays (April 1-May 6), 7-9pm. Location: ODC Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. Fee: \$75. Info: 552-7200, or www.gayglobals.com/harvymilk.

Catherine Clark Gallery

Opening reception: "Pansy," new paintings by Susan Dory, and "Un-Becoming," new sculpture by Walter Robinson. Plus a Project Room installation by "Tag Team" (Walter Robinson and Tim Sharman). Free. 5:30-7:30pm. 49 Geary St., second floor. 399-1439.

A Different Light

Paul Robinson reads from *Gay Lives, Homosexual Autobiography*. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

DNA Lounge

The Exotic Dancer's Alliance presents "Strippers in the Arts," an evening of performance and visual arts featuring Gina Gold, Daisy Anarchy, Talullah Bankheist, Randen Trixie Trashina Cann, Catherine Mittleman, and DJ Jah Bonz. \$10-\$50 sliding (benefits the Exotic Dancers Alliance and the artists' upcoming projects). 8pm. 375 11th St. Info: 995-4745.

Dominique Zeltzman conducts dance class for the Harvey Milk Institute. See Thursday.



WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
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San Francisco, CA 94103
Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

This Week's Dinner Specials

Fresh Salmon Fillet grilled or poached with white wine-lemon-dill sauce, vegetable and mashed potatoes or chef's rice \$11.75

Grilled N.Y. Pepper Steak encrusted with cracked pepper, brandy-cream sauce, vegetable, french fries & onion rings \$13.95

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'In the Life' to air on PBS

Not straight, not narrow

by Victoria A. Brownworth

The approaching millennium impacts everyone in different ways. While some prepare bunkers for the sci-fi horrors Y2K scaremongers predict, others are simply throwing caution to the winds and taking a range of risks.

PBS's long-running Queer 101 TV series *In the Life* rarely veers from — no pun intended — the straight and narrow when it comes to its sincere vignettes of lesbian and gay life. As informative as the programs can be, they suffer from extreme PBS-ness; there's a

sive, not a Michael Huffingtonian neo-con gay. Her enthusiasm for politics is refreshing, and old-time queers like Barney Frank are clearly pleased to have her on board. This interview makes one eager to watch her in Washington.

However, it's the show's opener that sets the tone for much of the episode — an in-depth report on the changing face of AIDS in the US. Those of us who have reported on the epidemic for nearly two decades are not unfamiliar with the data explored in this piece: AIDS is increasingly a disease of poverty, color, age and gender, with blacks and Latinos dis-

program, it's good to see real attention to class and economic issues, as well as addressing of how interconnected various communities are over this disease, most especially queers and people of color.

Bi all rights

The following segments also deal with problems of discrimination — certainly well-charted territory for *In the Life*, except here the discrimination is being felt by bisexuals and transsexuals. These pieces were most intriguing and worth watching. Bisexuality has long been perceived as sexual and political fence-sitting by a majority of lesbians and gay men — a kind of political having one's cake and eating it too. The discourse here suggests this can discriminate against bisexuals and then explores the concept that bisexuality is in fact quite widespread, particularly among young women and men.

One of the more interesting points raised involved the whole ex-gay debacle. Bisexual activists argue that the religious right has used the preponderance of bisexuality to promote an anti-gay message — in essence that perhaps those who allege they have been "changed" by the ex-gay program are actually bisexuals.

Transgendered folks also suffer discrimination, pretty much by everyone, as the next segment elucidates. Trans-diva Kate Bornstein delivers an all-too-brief exploration of the lives of three transgendered musicians: the jazz pianist Dorothy "Billy" Tipton; classical concert pianist Sara, formerly David, Buechner; and heavy metal singer/guitarist from the band Glamazon, Christine Beatty.

This piece is simply fascinating, far too short to do the subject justice. As Bornstein explains through interviews with Buechner, Beatty and Jamison Green, director of FTM International, gender issues remain one of the most hotly debated on the planet; and in the tightly orchestrated music industry, gender is a key issue.

Tipton crossed gender for five decades to succeed as a female in a male-dominated industry. Some argue Tipton was a butch lesbian, not transgendered, but Tipton lived as a man from age 23, married five women and adopted three sons — one of whom got the shock of his life when Tipton died suddenly and an EMS crew revealed Tipton's female body to his son.



Gillian Blake

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin



South Asian Lesbian and Gay Association marches in New York

kind of Ozzie and Harriet-meets-Betty DeGeneres tone to the show, as if P-FLAG underwrites all the programming. Thus *In the Life* has always seemed geared toward the newly out and their families. Which is why the current episode differs from the usual fare and appears to take a few risks.

The exception is a nice report on the election of Wisconsin's Tammy Baldwin as the first non-incumbent out queer to be elected to Congress (also Wisconsin's first female Congressperson). Baldwin, for those unfamiliar with her, is young, smart and highly progres-

sive, not a Michael Huffingtonian neo-con gay. Her enthusiasm for politics is refreshing, and old-time queers like Barney Frank are clearly pleased to have her on board. This interview makes one eager to watch her in Washington.

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Tipton crossed gender for five decades to succeed as a female in a male-dominated industry. Some argue Tipton was a butch lesbian, not transgendered, but Tipton lived as a man from age 23, married five women and adopted three sons — one of whom got the shock of his life when Tipton died suddenly and an EMS crew revealed Tipton's female body to his son.

kiss that leads to a gay-bashing stars Jessica Hecht, the lesbian from NBC's *Friends*, and Sandra Oh, and has created quite a stir among critics and theatregoers. The final piece deals with ethnic groups attempting to integrate ethnicity and queerness. It covers such annual battles as the St. Patrick's Day parades in New York and Boston and the lesser-known, but actually more embattled India Day parade in New York.

With diverse perspectives to inform even the most jaded, more than any recent episode of *In the Life*, this is one to catch or set the VCR for 11 p.m. Friday, March 26 on KQED, Channel 9. ▼

Where it's at

by Gregg Shapiro

It's 1999, do you know where pop and modern rock music is? *How To Operate With A Blown Mind* (Skint/Columbia) by Lo Fidelity Allstars, *Back In The U.S.S.A.* (RCA) by The Interpreters, and *Godsmack* (Universal/Republic) by Godsmack all attempt, in their own individual ways, to answer that question.



The best of the three discs, the Lo Fidelity Allstars' *How To Operate With A Blown Mind*, is also the most forward-thinking of the bunch. Bursting at the seams with samples (as so much of the current crop of electronic and dance music is), only a few of the disc's eleven tracks don't contain musical sampling. Of those tracks, "Blisters On The Brain" is the most notable. The best of the remaining tracks are the ones that use the sampling technology to come up with something unusual (or as unusual as possible under the circumstances). Such uniqueness occurs on the tracks "Lazer Sheep Dip Funk," "Warming Up The Brain Farm," "Vision Incision," and "Kool Roc Bass."

You might not know it from listening to The Interpreter's *Back*

In The U.S.S.A. disc, but this Philadelphia-based trio has previously worked with electronica whiz Josh Wink. You also might not know that this album was supposed to have been released almost a year and a half ago. Initially scheduled to be released on the short-lived Volcano Records label (Matthew Sweet, Lusk), *Back In The U.S.S.A.* is being given a second chance. The Interpreters have a Brit-pop/punk sensibility (think of a darker Supergrass) that comes through especially loud and clear on "Lucky Day," "Glorious," "Ironic... Blowout," "Teacher," "Uptight," "Take It Away," "Standing There," "Where Do We Go When," and "She Took It Shy."

In the aftermath of the decision that has occurred since the merger between mega-record labels Universal and Polygram, I find that I am scrutinizing releases from Universal and weighing them against bands that were dropped from the stripped-to-the-bone Geffen and A&M labels. Take Godsmack, for example. This is definitely a band that would have been out of place on both A&M and Geffen. Not because it's a band that makes the kind of metal angst music it does (after all, A&M was home to Monster Magnet), but because it's so damned inferior.

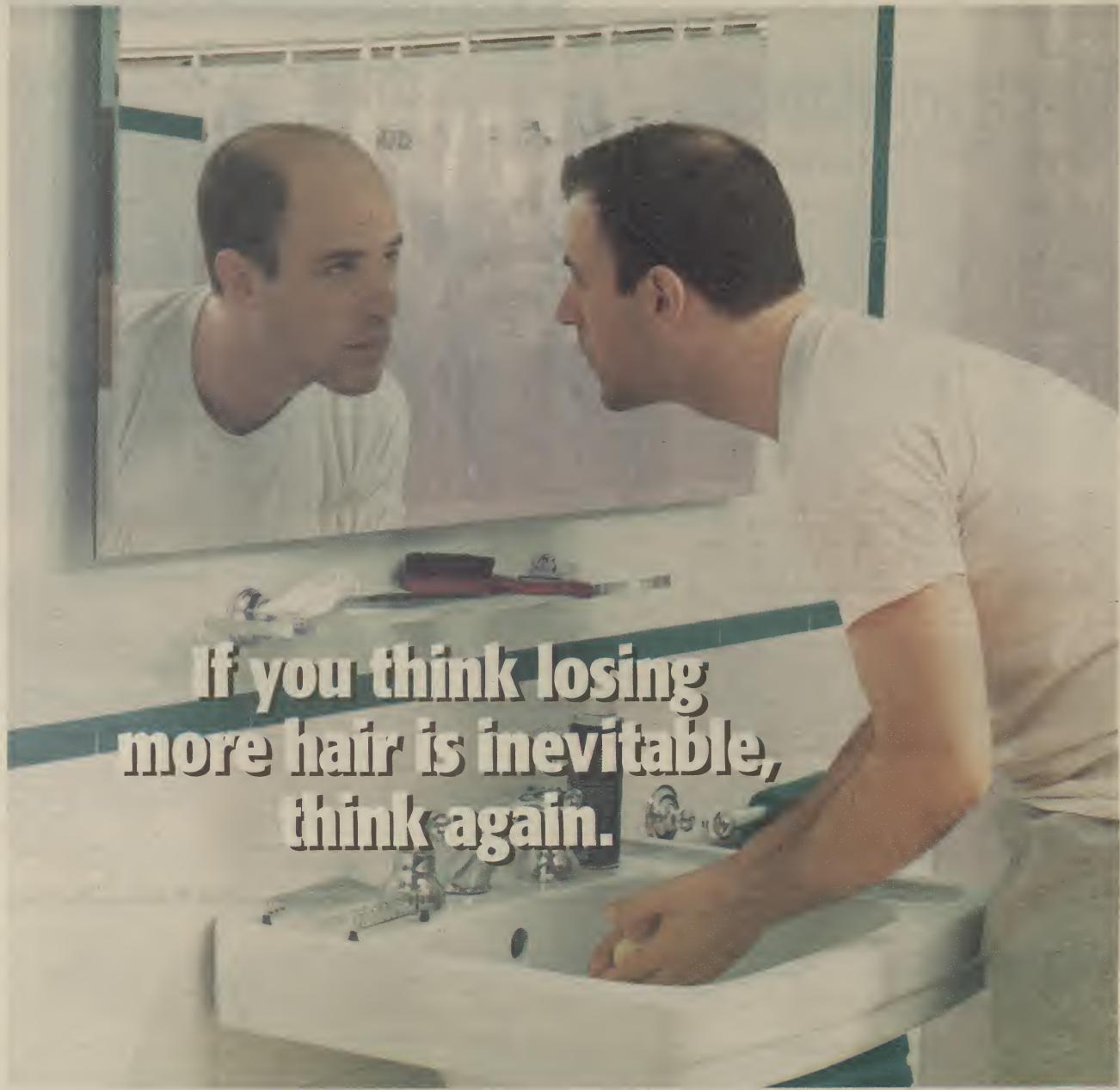
It's also hard to reconcile the fact that Godsmack emerged from the fertile ground of the Boston music scene. The sampled dialogue in "Moon Baby," the opening track, speaks of "tolerance for pain," something you will need while listening to this album. I actually listened to it three times, just to make sure that I didn't miss something. I didn't, and neither will you. ▼



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Back in blonde

The return of Deborah Harry

by John Blanco

Deborah Harry was in her mid-30s by the time she became a rock star/pin-up as the lead singer of Blondie 20 years ago. Whereas a younger performer would likely have become giddy with all the world tours, pop hits and adulation from drooling 14-year-old boys, Harry remained perpetually cool in the spotlight. It was a kind of cool that could even border on contempt at times, as was evident in a comical 1979 appearance on *American Bandstand* that VH1 re-broadcast a year or so ago. During the band's performance, Harry — looking ravishing and more than a little fucked-up — lip-synched half-heartedly while shooting imaginary arrows at her screaming teenage fans.

Rock critic Lester Bangs wrote about Harry's seeming indifference toward fame and her fans in *Blondie*, his memorable 1980 band biography. "To maintain stardom as a function of non-empathetic distance, to keep them wanting more as you toss the dirt of contempt in their faces... well, this is no easy trick to pull off," asserted Bangs. Blondie couldn't maintain stardom for long, but Harry's brittle, ice-princess persona, ultimately, wasn't the band's undoing. Tension within the lineup, the illness of Harry's partner, Blondie guitarist Chris Stein, and

one dud album, 1982's *The Hunter*, led to the band's demise in 1983.

Now, 16 years later as Blondie attempts to resuscitate its career, the most remarkable aspect of the reformed band is the thaw in Harry's icy veneer. During a recent concert on VH1 (you know you're getting old when the geezer music channel begins spotlighting bands from your generation), Harry seemed eager to connect with her audience. And when she did connect, which was often, the singer appeared genuinely moved by their outpouring of affection.

The warmth and vulnerability of Harry's stage presence during that show is evident in her singing on Blondie's new CD, *No Exit*. This is not to say that she's gone Celine on us and begun emoting up a storm, but emotionally, she does reveal more than on any past Blondie effort. There's a wonderful poignancy, for example, in the catch in her throat at the end of the line, "Ooohhh, she makes you want to cry," from *No Exit's* first single, "Maria." Of course, some of the changes in Harry's voice, such as its marked huskiness, could simply be a result of age. On the chorus of "Maria," she strains for high notes that she could have hit without batting a glittery eyelash 20 years ago. But sacrificing a bit of range for vocal richness and character is a more than fair exchange.



Blondie, from left to right: Chris Stein, Clem Burke, Deborah Harry, and Jimmy Destri

New smoke

Harry puts the newfound smokiness of her voice to good use on *No Exit's* "Boom Boom in the Zoom Zoom Room." As oh-so-ironic, '90s cocktail jazz goes, this song is better than most, mainly because Harry is utterly convincing as a jaded, world-weary chanteuse. Accompanied by drunken sax and a slow, steady drumbeat, Harry tosses off sassy one-liners ("Take down my number with your pencil mustache") with aplomb.

Along with lounge jazz, *No Exit* features white-girl blues ("Happy Dog"), '80s-style electro-pop ("Forgive and Forget"), lilting

country ("The Dream's Lost On Me") and hip-hop ("No Exit"). The latter track, a collaboration between Harry and rap star Coolio, is the only real embarrassment of the bunch. It's not quite as incongruous (or as fun) as Peggy Lee and rock 'n' roll or Ethel Merman and disco, but Harry and rap — the chart success of "Rapture" almost two decades ago notwithstanding — are still a mismatch.

However, Harry and early '60s pop — especially that of the Brill Building, girl group variety — were made for each other, as is obvious from the cover here of the Shangri-Las' "Out in the Streets." Blondie first recorded this tune 25

years ago on their earliest demo tape. Supposedly, back then it was all proto-punk spit and fury, but *No Exit's* version is an almost plaintive, midtempo number featuring a sparse mix of synthesized drum and bass. This modern musical setting pairs surprisingly well with the song's '60s dime-novel narrative of a young girl's ill-fated love for her rebel boy. Harry musters up only about half as much feeling as Shangri-Las' lead singer Betty Weiss did on the peerless original, but considering how far Harry's come as a vocalist, that's still probably twice as much feeling as she lent the song the first time around. ▼

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What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this is in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s.

Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

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In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

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A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

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- should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

The active ingredient in PROPECIA is also used by older men at a five-times higher dose to treat enlargement of the prostate. Some of these men reported other side effects, including problems with ejaculation, breast swelling and/or tenderness and allergic reactions such as lip swelling and rash. In clinical studies with PROPECIA, these side effects occurred as often in men taking placebo as in those taking PROPECIA.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

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Legendary lesbians

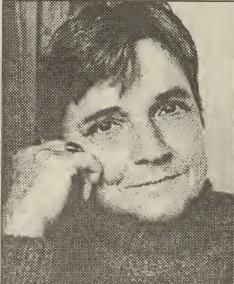
by Deborah Peifer

Midnight Salvage: Poems 1995-1998 by Adrienne Rich; Norton, \$22

Movement in Black, Expanded Edition by Pat Parker; Firebrand, \$16.95

Dreams of the Woman Who Loved Sex, Expanded Edition by Tee A. Corinne; New Victoria, \$13.95

The first time I read one of Adrienne Rich's poems was in 1978. Some friends had given me a copy of *Twenty-One Love Poems*, and I couldn't wait until I got home to dive in. I opened the book right there on the subway, and started to read "(the floating poem, unnumbered)." Six lines into the poem I



Adrienne Rich

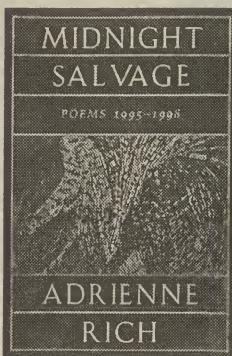
realized that if I continued reading, I would very likely be arrested for public lewdness. It remains the most erotic collection of words I have ever read, and I still can't read it in a public place without serious risk of public orgasm. I've been a fan of Rich's ever since.

Pat Parker's voice thrilled me before I ever read her work. Olivia Records put out an album in response to Anita Bryant called *Lesbian Concentrate* (and why don't they dig it out and re-release it?), a wonderful collection of songs and spoken words including "Ode to a Gym Teacher," "Sweet Woman," and Parker's reading of her own "For the Straight Folks Who Don't Mind Gays But Wish They Weren't So BLATANT." Her voice, equal parts honey and rage and humor, made me want to cheer. This is still the poem I quote to people who want us to stay closeted because they "don't want to hear about anybody's sex life," an odd thing really, because these same folks don't consider an announcement of marriage or pregnancy to be information about anyone's sex life. Parker's work made me braver and more hopeful, more certain of the joy of being a lesbian and the necessity of political action.

Tee Corinne's *Dreams of the Woman Who Loved Sex* was the first book of erotica I ever owned. I bought it after I moved to San Francisco, and was living alone for the first time in my life. I had just ended a ten-year relationship and needed to find out what I thought was sexy. Corinne showed me a world of sexual and sensual pleasures and made me realize that sexual being was top on the list of things I wanted to be. I decided then that my goal was to be the oldest sexually active lesbian in the United States. Corinne's writing made me realize just how worthy a goal that was and is.

If you've read this far, you're wondering whether I intend to review the books listed so neatly at

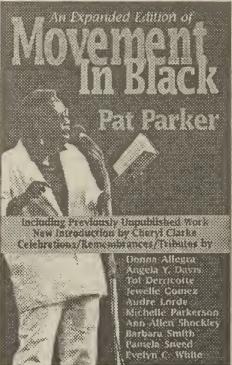
the top of the column. The short answer is yes, with a but. These three women hold so important a place in my lesbian life that my response to their words is overwhelmingly personal. In this case feeling trumps thinking.



Readers digest

Midnight Salvage is as intense a volume of poetry as I can remember reading. It's the kind of book that cannot be comprehended in one sitting; rather, each poem must be read, considered, digested, reread, re-examined. Rich's language is exquisite, painless, powerful. "Rusted Legacy" opens with a question I'm still thinking about: "Imagine a city where nothing's/ forgiven your dead adheres/ to you like a scar..."

The imagery of the title poem sears the mind: "Old walls the pride of architects collapsing/ find us in crazed niches sleeping like foxes/ we wanters we unwanted we/wanted for the crime of being ourselves." *Midnight Salvage* may be Rich's most powerful writing ever.



Movement In Black was originally published in 1978, and owing to the vicissitudes of small presses, went out of print, was rescued, went out of print again. The new edition includes previously unpublished work, as well as remembrances by such luminaries as Jewelle Gomez and Angela Davis. To read Audre Lorde's tribute to Parker is extraordinarily moving. To read Parker's towering poem "For Audre" right after, and then to realize both mighty voices have been silenced by cancer is to move from wonder to rage in an instant. Parker uses language with such skill, such tenderness, such humor, such outrage that each poem becomes an adventure on the tongue. In "For the White Person Who Wants to Know How to Be My Friend," she reminds us white women to chill, while making a serious point on objectification. "Woman-slaughter" is Parker's cry of outrage at the murder of her sister by the sister's ex-husband. She begins with understatement that makes the very ground tremble with pain:

"It doesn't hurt as much now/ the thought of you dead/ doesn't rip at my innards,/ leaves no holes to suck rage." *Movement in Black* makes you laugh, sigh, cry, cheer, curse the heavens; it is a stunning reminder of all we have left to do.

To some, not me, vanilla is a term of contempt for a kind of sexuality that does not include abuse, degradation and pain. Clearly, the people who use that term are not cooks, because any cook can tell you about the richness, the sensuality, the sheer pleasure of the taste and smell of vanilla. Tee Corinne writes vanilla sex that rocks the soul even as it pleasures the body. *Erotica* is often called a one-handed read, but Corinne's writing is so hot, so juicy, so sexy, that it's possible for the reader to come half-a-dozen times while reading a single story, with no hands involved at all. Her poetry celebrates and explicates the ways of the passionate body, as in this poem from "Cream": "Sunlight wraps around your body/ drops of water and goosebumps/ speckle your skin./ Me, I want to grab you/ warm you from the inside out." *Dreams of the Woman Who Loved Sex* is another book that cannot be safely read in public, but for those of us who have worn out their old copies, this new edition comes just in time. Pleasure yourself, and buy this book. ▼

Adrienne Rich reads from *Midnight Salvage* at Book Passage, 51 Tamal Vista Blvd., Corte Madera on April 13 at 7:30 p.m. Call (415) 927-0960 for information.

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Steven Underhill

PARTING GLANCES

Talbert in Berkeley!

You: Nice smile, clean pate. Me: Steaven, about to turn into a pumpkin. Rushing off at midnight in Berkeley, tuesday, 2/16. Wished I'd gotten your number. Give a call. ☎ 6501

Late Snack At Eros

I was your convenient late night snack with the gentle touch. You stopped leaving this bottom wanting more. Call if you'd like to play another time. ☎ 6501

Frank On Muni Fri 1/29 9 A.M.
You got on at Montgomery, off at Van Ness. Wanted to read my sweatshirt. Me: s/p hair, glasses, goatee, black jacket. You have a great smile. Please call. ☎ 6502

GLEN(N)!

Pleasuredome, 2/14. Sorry about the name thing. I had the bartender that overheard me arrested. Dinner? Loni ☎ 6503

Post/Kearny Fri 2/19 1:55PM
You, tall, dark hair, mustache; me, sunglasses, mustache, plaid jacket, tan slacks. Exchanged glances, would like to meet you, please call. ☎ 6504

Saturday Afternoon 2/13

Older guy in chair at Lovie's, young man with baseball cap waiting for same stylist. You have a great smile, would like to connect. ☎ 6505

El Rio New Years Eve

Me gray haired & happy that you danced behind me at midnight, but unhappy that although our eyes met many times, we never did. ☎ 6506

Bearded Man @ Movies on 1/15
You sat behind me at Gods & Monsters. We said hello afterwards in the lobby- would like to connect with you. Call me. ☎ 6507

Safeway On Market Mon 2/15 5:30
You: Adorable little GWM, short brown hair, black leather coat, new jeans, buying doritos and more. Me: GWM, 6'1", trim, glasses. Followed you outside. Too shy to speak. Let's meet! ☎ 6508

Pretty Guy in Green Jeep 3/2
Me: Walking across Harrison St., sweat pants & t-shirt & glasses. You: Blond/ Buzzcut, shirt/ slacks. You took a right on ninth, then stopped for delivery? Left hazards blinks. Please call Christopher. ☎ 6600

Rockridge Safeway
Sunday 2-28, 4:30 pm. Exchanged glances, smiles. You, handsome w/dark hair, left in a late model Volvo. Me: Slim, Latin, younger. Let's meet. ☎ 6601

Benches & Bar Friday 2/26
I asked, which hand does the wedding ring go on? You, Leather coat, two left feet, asked would I remember your number? I didn't, so call me. ☎ 6602

Leather Buddies 2/24
You fucked me in full leather on a sling. We talked briefly in lobby, but boyfriend prevented my offering number. Did you say Dave? ☎ 6603

Crossing Castro @ 18th-22nd Eve
You- Blond, black pants & jacket wifriend. Me- Brown hair & goatee in gray turtle-neck sweater, wifriend. You had to leave by midnight? Me: Richard from up north. Would love to get together sometime? ☎ 6604

Chris On Collingwood
We met @ The Detour, Sun 2/21. You came to my place in Bernal Hts. We didn't do the phone number thing. Please call me. Dave. ☎ 6605

10 Naked Men
Wed. Feb. 24. You, young handsome in Row B center right. I'm older than you in Row C. We connect and spoke after. Show. I'm a nice guy. Would enjoy speaking again. ☎ 6606

Southwest FLT 1455 Vegas To SJ
March 7. Exchanged many glances, spoke briefly. I wanted to talk more. Me across the aisle to Burbank, then in front to SJ. ☎ 6700

Proud On 18th 3/2 Btwn 10 & 11a
You with two guys, had cap on, watching me, as I got my coffee and met outside. I wore leather jacket, Levi's, SF cap. You, looked back leaving. ☎ 6701

Randy Blubots Sun 2/28
Gray haired sexbot seeks continuation & escalation of first meeting. I'll buy dinner, desert to be mutually agreed upon. Your choice, Hot man! ☎ 6702

Costco San Leandro, Sat. 2/27/99
We: Exchanged looks while shopping. You: Dark hair, maybe Asian, clean cut, shaven, goodlooking. Me: With women friend, dark hair, clean cut. Wanted to talk, only seen you once. ☎ 6703

Valentine Night @ Hole -In-Wall
The former therapist "Patti Smythe" and the bald banker from Atlanta (aka Claire) have fun with a budweiser bottle. I wanna trade hot wheels with Jeff! Call me! ☎ 6805

Dan!!! Call Clayton
I've misplaced your phone number. Shall we dine at Oberon again? Remember Chicago, The Mark, Phantom. ☎ 6800

Cliff's Hardware 3/15 @ 1:30pm
Your, brown hair, goatee, jeans, motorcycle helmet. Me: blue cords. I stated there were many choices for key rings. I should have given you my #. Please call ☎ 6801

Rawhide 2 Fri 3/5 11pm-12mn
You: Bob architect, originally 5th gen. Rancher pendleton, or. Cinderella. You had to leave by midnight? Me: Richard from up north. Would love to get together sometime? ☎ 6802

Searching For The Nile To Swim
Met you at Tsunami, gave you a ride home, thought you were cool. Like to see you again. I owe you three dollars! Want to payback. ☎ 6803

Bob - Puerto Vallarta Bound 2/28
We shared Super-Shuttle to SFO & talked waiting for our flights. I boarded for Toronto, went back to give you my number, you were already gone. Call me! Christopher. ☎ 6804

You: Charlie-Met you @ SFO 2/16/99 1:00pm Flight to Wash-Dulles. Me: Ronnie- on 2:00pm Flight to Wash-BWI. Call me. ☎ 6807

19Polk From Harrison 3/2 5:10pm
You: Cute, very pale blonde boy w/red stache, hooded swiwtch. Me: S/P daddy/gm flyt jacket. We talked. Were U cruising daddy? Yes, sir was interested. Still is-RU? Hope so! ☎ 6805

Fabiano Vincent
Robert Craig wants to know how to make Ravioli. ☎ 6704

Embarrac Muni Tues 3/9 4PM
Watched you step down stairs then boarded as you sat across me along other side of door. You: exiled Montgomery, handsome, hazel-brown eyes, humble-expression. Me: coffee/hand, smiling timidly though I continued to look into your eyes. Dinner? ☎ 6807

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Style And Sophistication
GAM, youthful 46,57", goodlooking, intelligent, sensitive, compassionate gentleman seeks goodlooking WM with similar qualities. Interests include symphony; theater, C&W dance, working out, and traveling abroad. ☎ 6510

All American Male ISO Same/GLM
34,6'2", 210, S&P/blue, extremely handsome professional. Passionate, sensual spirit; ly-educated mind; athletic body. HIV+. Into biking, outdoors, romance, relationship. You: 30's, professional, financially stable, adventurous, relationship oriented. ☎ 6511

Uncut Loverman Wanted
GWM seeks warm, loving, and affectionate uncut GWM for relationship involving sharing, caring, growth, bonding, and lots of sex. I'm 52, 5'9", 175, brnbl, beard, HIV-. ☎ 6512

Gateway To The Glances Sought
By GWHM, youthful 40's, 6', 160lb, blk/green, cute, smart, creative, in love with Hindu, Muslim, and Persian culture -and hoping to please. ☎ 6513

Latino ISO East Bay Man Only
Attractive, 30's, 5'9", 155, smooth body/face, likes outdoors, creative, ISO under 45, any race in good shape, mature honest, healthy, for friendship or possible LTR. S 6512

Hunk 6ft 190 33w 49 Neg Gdlikg
Fit, muscled, exceptionally well-maintained physically balanced, educated, masculine nice guy with sense of humor. A maverick, never part of gay mainstream looking to connect with 1 right guy. ☎ 6809

GAM Seeks GWM
33 GAM, 5'8" 150#, professional seeking attractive, romantic WM under 45 for friendship and more. I enjoy travel, reading, eating out, nights out occasionally. Pts call. ☎ 6516

Tall Big Dicked Athlete Wants
Same for jock-off/exhibition session. I'm lean/muscular, buzz-cut, 8" cock, 6'3", 200lbs. You're close to this too. Turn: Jock straps, manly, auto-fellation. ☎ 6518

Rancher Seeks Cowboy
GWM 40's 5'10", brown eyes, black hair, beard seeks GWM 25-40 who enjoys rural life, hard work, honesty N/D, N/A. Home body for monogamous LTR. ☎ 6519

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking 33 y/o, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, 5'7" 145#, professional looking for GWM between 26-39/y/o for friendship or more. Me: Like movies, dining out, tennis, hiking, travel. Call me. ☎ 6520

Clean Ass Only

Healthy GWM 55 pos, looking for LT ass eating relationship, must love jockstraps. I eat- you enjoy. ☎ 6521

RU HIV+ Black/Latin Concord Top
HIV+ Pittsburgh bottom, 32, blue/brown, 6 foot, 185 smoker, 5'8", 185, Solano drive in, fleamarkets, bar-b-ques, home improvements. Let's snuggle and playhouse! ☎ 6522

AGGRESSIVE BLACK MEN

GWM 6'165bs. Would like to be dominated sexually. I have a deep throat and bottom for black dick. I'm all yours anytime you call. ☎ 6523

Sugar Boy

Sought by GWM 58. You are GWM under 41, established, in great shape, passionate. We like travel, intellect, fine food, the arts, athleticism, family. Both are okay with HIV. ☎ 6524

Tall Dark Handsome Loving Husband

Passionate GWM LTR. Accomplished, 6'2", 190#, 43, buffed goatee Italian. Fun, exclusive, sincere, HIV+ nonprogresor. Seeks similar 35-45, GWM, professional, relationship oriented for soulmate. Bodybuilder A+. ☎ 6525

Hunk 6ft 190 33W 49 Neg Gdlikg

Fit, muscled, exceptionally well-maintained body, face. Balanced, educated, masculine nice guy with sense of humor. A maverick, never part of gay mainstream looking to connect with 1 right guy. ☎ 6526

Houseboy In Search Of Master

You: Masculine, affectionate but firm, healthy, ready for special master/slave relationship. Me: Masculine educated, GWM, 49, 6'-165#, muscular, poz, great character, healthy, uninhibited with right person, bottom. ☎ 6608

Woody Harrelson Look A Like

GWM young looking 39, 6'1" 175#, br/gr, NS/NR, gymast build, clean-shaven, HIV+, Publisher Extraordinaire, non profit. Volunteer for hiking, running, dancing, dining, making peace. No sex until third date please. ☎ 6609

Southeast Asians Info Please

This GWM travelling to Southeast Asia soon. I need practical info and possible contacts, will pay back. Call with maybe dinner. ☎ 6610

Good Looking 22Yr. Old Latin Boy

Seeking a relationship w/ a handsome rich daddy. ☎ 6611

Sugar Boy

Sought by handsome GWM 58. You are GWM under 45, in successful career, great shape, wanting 50-50 relationship. We like family, athleticism, conversation, travel, books. Both with HIV. ☎ 6612

For Seniors Only

Now I know that a firm erection is only a bonus. Superfuous only. Two good men in oral embrace. That's the real thing! ☎ 6613

Safe Sex Only

GWM seeks young males 18-25. Clean hygiene. HIV+, firstimers, all races, big swollen nipples, tight round but, muscles or slim bodies. No fats, drugs, or smokers. ☎ 6614

Friends In SF

New to city. GWM, professional, intellectual, active. I'm looking for friends between 25-35, with interests in arts, history, travel, dining, dancing, movies, christian spirituality. No drugs, occasional drinker. Serious only. ☎ 6615

20 Yr. Old Latin Handsome

Looking for a sugar daddy. ☎ 6616

Millionaire Sks Btm Husband

Intelligent, emotionally, electrifying, hndsm, in shape. Man seeks a man 45, an ex-escort/model type who wants to dream big and give all, and get all to from one man, and who knows how to keep a man happy at home. S 6617

Wanted Airplane Pilot

Tall, lean muscular. Hung pilot wanted. Excellent amenities. ☎ 6618

Mentor

I'm blond blue eyed man with a great sense of humor and style. I've got a good body and I'm HIV+, happy, successful, and educated. I am looking for the right person with whom I can share and care. ☎ 6619

Is Size An Issue?

Looking for something bigger? Call Jim need more closet space? ☎ 6620

RU HIV+ Black/Latin Concord Top

HIV+ Pittsburgh bottom, 32, blue/brown, 6 foot, 185 smoker, 5'8", 185, Solano drive in, fleamarkets, bar-b-ques. Let's snuggle by the fireplace and playhouse! ☎ 6705

HIV+ Male Looking For Others

30yo male 5'9" 165lbs, looking for other HIV+ males who would like to go out & have a good time. Looking for someone who enjoys dinner, dancing, working out, and traveling. You must be 25-35yo and physically fit. ☎ 6808

Yer Wife/Best Gal Neck & Neck

W/Monica of the stained blue dress as world's worst cocksucker? Not to worry, I suck you off right the first time (you shoot your biggest load ever!) ☎ 6706

Asians Read This

Seeking a horny Asian man under 35, full of cum, who likes to kick back occasionally or complete oral servicing. Same day or night callback. ☎ 6707

East Bay

60yr. 6'2". I love and need big, cut cocks, anyway you want to give it. I love big feet and naked men. Np cock-rings please. ☎ 6708

Uncut Friend Wanted

Masculine, mature, GWM, 6', 200#, HIV-neg seeks, sex and a relationship with an uncut man. I like reading, conversation, cuddling and the outdoors. I'm affectionate and open to new activities. S 6709

Let Daddie Nuzzle Your Neck

Rake your body limb to limb; your legs aloft, my body (6'255 hairy pumping: EXPLOSION. You're 27-46, smaller. LTR herb/aroma. Ok ☎ 6710

Master Seeks Slave

30-45ys, responsible, ht/wt proportionate, with obedient tongue and ass for roleplay. Single, companion-oriented only. Fuckin, piss, cum, nipples. Master's dominant, not sadistic, HIV-, 43, 175#, br/bl, moustache/goatee. ☎ 6711

Are You Out There

Quiet/conservative GWM 32, 5'9", 155lbs. Not into bars/drugs. Seeking similar under 50 for friendship and more. Salt/pepper hair a plus. ☎ 6712

GWM Seeks TLC

ISO my special warm-hearted tender loving guy. You: GWM or GHM, HIV-, who enjoys movies, theatre & kissing & cuddling; Me: GWM, 5'9", 175lbs. dk auburn/blue. Give me a call if you've got some TLC. ☎ 6713

Good Life

ISO/HIV+, handsome GWM, successful, affluent, professional seeks under 48 similar. You have perfect body, good income, excellent social skills and value intellect, athleticism, travel and family. ☎ 6714

Analyze This

8' cock, can't get enough- I love having my dick sucked. My body is in shape and my head is together. I'm over 40. HIV- 150lbs. 5'8" nonsmoker. ☎ 6809

Smooth, Dark, Fit/Built, 145lbs, 5'7", 38.

Enjoys theatre, movies, beach, outdoors. Looking for w 26-38. You be smooth/in shape for friends/ possible bf. ☎ 6810

Smooth Ltr Possible In SF?

40's GWM, nice guy, 5'8", 150#, avg. build, ns. Looking for 35-50 GWM, stable, height/weight/prop, ns for dating, friendship, leading to LTR. I'm ready. Are you? ☎ 6811

Handsome Muscular Italian

GWM, 38, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times, seeks another HIV Negative extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 6812

Looking For Well Hung Man

Submissive white male athletic & creative. Looking for more dominate man to care for, you care for me. ☎ 6813

Total Bottom

WM 35.5"10" 155lb, crew cut, buttocks, butt, waistband abs expert cock-sucker, clean bottom. Not excellent svc for right guy. ☎ 6814

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Why Waste Time Cruising?

Hot Italian with deep throat and huge tool wants to meet hung, smooth guys. No chit chat, no strings, just a nut and hit the road. Tell me what you have and what you want. ☎ 6527

Fuckbuddy Wanted

GM seeks man for versatile sex, 25-45, any race, nd/ns, HIV-. Tall +, 7" or more. ☎ 6528

Your Ass, My Face, Spread'Em

E. Bay, 5'8", 55, stocky, seeks in-shape BM, HM, who likes to have a white guy kiss his ass. HIV-, hairy, uncult, ol. ☎ 6529

Studs Who Like To...

Kick back, get exceptional head & rim job, drop a load, look no further. Italian btm, 6', 45, 210# rugged, goatee & mst. Castro location 12-5am ☎ 6530

Swallow It Down Real Deep

WM 40's HIV- very masculine dominant verbal seeks very submissive HIV- cocksucker with obedient tongue and hungry deep throat for regular long sessions at your place in SF. ☎ 6632

Mellow Mouth 4 Manly Members
Cocksucker dad, 47, trim, short beard gives smooth bjs to black, white hungstuds, my place. Sun-Mon. best. Come pump & unload. Be trim, together & primed. ☎ 6531

Older Seeks Younger 18-40 Male
For ongoing sex and friendship. I'm 75, 5'8", 170, fun loving and romantic. Gay, bi, bi-curious ok, since I'll teach you if necessary. Open to LTR. ☎ 6532

East European Or Russian Men
Trim, HIV-, under 50, 7' wanted for oral sex. No reciprocation necessary. I am a GWM in my 50's, 5'10", 150#, dark brown hair somewhat shaggy. ☎ 6533

Ass Massage-Erotic Spanking
Top needs bottom boy, Me attractive, GWM, 46, 6%, 250lbs, husky build, brown hair/mustache, hairy chest/stomach. You: attractive, GM (white, asian, latin), smooth/moderate body hair, nice buns. ☎ 6534

FOOTLOOSE FUN
WM boomer wants to lick you all over, starting with your feet. Erotic massage too, I'm VGL, trim, healthy, versatile, friendly, sincere. You're a WM, cute, youngish, frisky, clean-shaven, HIV-. ☎ 6535

Passionate!
Secure, prof'l seeks fuckbuddy. Me: GWM, 46, HIV+, H2/Br (receding), Healthy HIV+, Trim/toned. Adventurous, masc bottom. ISO fun loving GWM to share hot times. Must be in shape. Poss LTR. ☎ 6536

Wants J/O Addict Buddies
GWM, 31, thin, totally addicted to J/O, jocks naked for hours, day, wants like-minded buddies for repeated, obsessive, cum-spurting transaction sessions. Under 35, trim, south bay A+. ☎ 6537

Excellent Mouth and Butt
24GWM blablu, 5'7", 135, 8 cut, hairy chest, legs, butt, and very versatile. Looking to suck and swallow, maybe more. Young uncut Latians, others a plus, but not necessary. ☎ 6539

Suck Daddy's Huge Cock
GWM, 55, 5'7", 165 wants to lay back and get his balls drained. Dad likes to suck a big one too! You be 20-50 in excellent shape, attractive, cauc. ☎ 6540

I Want To Fill Your Hole!
With 8 cut thick inches on a handsome inshape, blond, 38 yr. old. Friendly bottoms with ready holes, for oral or anal action. Let's get it on! ☎ 6542

Seeking Oral Buddy
Masculine bear needs hungry oral buddy for intense sessions for complete pleasure. I'm sexy, hairy, dominant, verbal, HIV-, clean and know how to feed a hot mouth. ☎ 6542

Hot Studs To Service
Goodlooking GWM 38,185, 6ft, with short brown hair and mustache, seeks handsome men of all nationalities to suck, and more. Must be 35, and younger, only. ☎ 6623

Hot Submissive Daddy's Boy
Looking for older daddy to make me hot, squirm for more, suck you, get fucked, and be very willing to do anything: U-B dominant, kissable & HIV-. Call. ☎ 6624

Handsome Bottom Man
Mature GWM, 5/10, 150, beard/mustache, toned, great touch; hot, smooth, tight and deep for White/Black/Latin/Bald/Bear studs to fill & refill; for the serious total top to 65. ☎ 6625

Cuban Puerto Rican Haitian Men
Trim, HIV-, under 50, 7' cock, for oral sex. No reciprocation necessary. I am a GWM in my 50's, 5'10", 150#, dark brown hair. Enjoy classical music, computers, outdoors. ☎ 6626

Russian River Dude
New to area, GWM, 39, 5'8", 140lbs. Seeking similar guy for fun. ISO any race 20-50, HIV+ prop, submissive not tweester! Check it out guys. ☎ 6627

In Search Of A Pig Bottom
Nice looking muscular GWM, looking for a submissive pig bottom who loves his hole played with. Must be fit, nice looking and loves to suck cock and party. ☎ 6628

Rub1
Hot East Bay Latin, HIV-, great shape, versatile, mature, nicely hung, white round ass, 5'8", 155, ISO HIV-Bay males. Age, looks, race unimportant. ☎ 6630

Asian Seeks A New Buddy
Boys Asian seeks smooth gym toned "All American" type WFM for a safe sex buddy. Blond a plus. ☎ 6633

Tight Little Bottom
GWM mature HIV- 120#, wants to be ff, slow & easy, with lot's of ass play. You experienced with small ass. HIV- like to fuck & be fucked. Herb/aroma ok. ☎ 6717

Cocksucker On Call
5'8", 150, stache, hairy is looking to swallow large cock and drain you nuts on a regular basis. You will be completely drained. ☎ 6716

Warm Sincere Grad Student 37
Looking for interesting coffee house talk, then mutual sucking. I am 5'7", masculine, bl eyes, passionate, HIV-. You are stocky, genuinely friendly, relatively intellectually. No games. Just fun and relaxation. ☎ 6734

WM, 34 5'10" 200# Blond/Blue
Muscle hunk wants masculine men to pump me or get pumped full of sperm. Also love to get massaged n' jerked-off. ☎ 6635

T.V. Buff
GWM loves T.V., shorts, sex video's, action video's, talkshows, cops, LAPD, court T.V., You: 18-36 GWM, GLM, for quiet time and love making. No fats. ☎ 6636

Hey Stud
Looking for someone to take care of that hot rod of yours? This 38yo, handsome, athletic boy, 5'10", 160lbs, will offer his services enthusiastically. You are HIV-, 25+, good-looking, down to earth. ☎ 6637

Masculine Top Seeker Bottoms
Muscular GWM 6'1" 200lbs, 40 seeks smaller hairy men to pump full of sperm on a regular basis. Must be in good shape HIV status not important. ☎ 6638

Black Bottom Wanted
Well endowed uncut BM ISO talented and experienced bottom for hot sex at your place. Those who like to ride. Mature men a plus. ☎ 6639

Palo Alto Asian Cocksucker
40, 5'11" 185, between 11pm-11am. Average to well endowed. Your place or designated area. No reciprocation. ☎ 6640

Dildo Delights
Sexy, built, top man, early 40's, in superb shape, ISO guys who like to take latex lane. If you can open it up, we should talk. No boys, just toys. ☎ 6641

Wanted Small Hands
I am a mature GWM HIV- tight little "ass, 5'2", Needs ff, slow. You HIV- & enjoy ff. Massage my ass!! Their is a reward, but you must be experience & eager. ☎ 6642

GBTM Btm, 54, 5'10" 200lb+ HIV+
Seeks white top for a sleazy fuck/buddy to squeeze out in oil/vaseline, foot/ body worship, oral/ass play, aroma, kissing open minded. ☎ 6643

Psychic? Paranormal Experiences?
Past life memory? Touch in with the elements? Esoteric spiritual pursuits & more? Me too! Let's talk. ☎ 6644

Masculine Italian Top
Hung, healthy, 36, 6'0" 165#, seeks submissive bottom. Boy 20-29 yrs old for hot action and fun times. In shape a must. Uncut/clean shaved/ under 5'10" a plus. ☎ 6645

SF Guy ISO
Handsome, horny, white guy, 37, 5'11", 175#, fit, hairy, HIV, ISO other hung hot men (20-47), tight and clean for J/O, rimming, sucking, & possible friendship. ☎ 6715

Skinny In Sonoma County?
I love running, giving head to very slender guys, 18-35. Available days anywhere in Sonoma Co., Northern Marin, Napa Co. Generous for very cute or hung. HIV-neg, non-smoking. ☎ 6718

Handsome HIV+ GWM Bottom Man
Redwood City 43, 190 6'3" med hairy 6" cut thick romantic, seeking any race, topman, handsome 30's-40's, HIV+, height prop. Hairy, 7'2" cut/uncut, thick, short/longhair. Into assplay. Real ☎ 6818

White Pig Bottom Wanted
Topman needs bottom. Oral give /take, lots of hugs and kisses too. Me: attract, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250lbs. brown hair/moustache, hairy chest/stomach. You: attrac GM (white, Asian, Latin), slim, nice buns, smooth/moderate bodyhair. ☎ 6822

Afternoon Sex Buddy Wanted
Topman needs bottom. Oral give /take, lots of hugs and kisses too. Me: attract, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250lbs. brown hair/moustache, hairy chest/stomach. You: attrac GM (white, Asian, Latin), slim, nice buns, smooth/moderate bodyhair. ☎ 6822

CATEGORY

Parting Glances

Seeking Relationship

Seeking Adventure

Lesbian

Fetishes

Couples

Others

Black Hot Dog/ Hispanic Buns
You're mature, masculine, Hispanic and would enjoy the "raw" back door pounding this black top man delivers, olive skin, husky build, dark hair, moustache big turn-ons! ☎ 6631

Big Top 4 Big Bottom
8+ cock needed to fill deep throat & bubble butt. I'm 39yo, 6'2", masculine, muscular, hairy bottom w/ insatiable appetite. You be under 50 yo & know how to use your big tool. ☎ 6719

Seeks Tall, With Boots/Loafers
BI, BM, 36, 6', 175 attractive, fit, ISO bottom guy, any race, 6'+, fit, attractive with size 11+ feet for hot footware times. ☎ 6720

Wanted: Passionate Asian!
GWM, 45, 10, 5'7" is seeking a GAM for sessions of hugging, kissing, touching, hot sex and friendship. You! healthy, somewhat fit and passionate between 30-45 in SF. Let's meet. ☎ 6721

Sit On My Face
Well built top, hung big needs, well built BM (20s-30s) with big firm hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 6722

Daddy Seeks Asian Boy Toy
GW 40 yo, 5'10", 175#, Italian, hairy chested mustache, 8" needs to fuck & rim slim BOY TOY, weekdays, afternoons only. ☎ 6723

Bottom Seeking Tops
GWM, 45, 6', 155lb, goodlooking bottom, seeks hung tops into long fuck sessions. HIV+. ☎ 6724

Buddy Looking For Buddies
Sexy BM in shape, gym toned, smooth, ISO other hot, hung men (20-45), tight, masculine, muscular, gym, for discrete J/O session. Aroma /herb ok ☎ 6725

Beer And Nudity
Straight acting slim guy wants to meet a similar type to drink beer with, play strip poker and other naked games. I'm white 41, with a nice cut dick. ☎ 6726

GW Stud Needs Asian or Latino
To service me daytime weekday. Must be slim, smooth, bottom, and want to service hot top 35yo/ GW 6'7" ☎ 6727

Uncut Tall Kissers
Seeking lean/skinny uncut dudes 6'2" + into J/O wet kisses, nipple play, other oral pleasures. Any age, race. I'm tancky, horny, unwhite and uncut. ☎ 6728

Just Shut Up- And Ride
WM, 34 5'10" 200lb. blond/blue muscle hunk wants good looking masculine men to pump up or get pumped. Also love to get massaged and jerked off-anytime. ☎ 6815

Hairy-Ass Daddy
Seeks boy, slim to muscular, to fuck my butt. I am VGL 50yo/b, 6'175, s+p, beard, HIV+. You are stiff-dicked daddy fucker. ☎ 6816

Ass Licker
If you a hot, muscular, good-looking dude in your 20's or 30's, this leather guy wants you to sit on my rim chair while I eat your ass. ☎ 6717

Hot Latino Likes To Suck And
Get fucked, nice butt. My place, your place. Under 40's. Redwood City area. 29 years old. Call me. ☎ 6819

White Pig Bottom Wanted
54 yr, old white top 6'0" 155 drk/brown bar glasses. Big 9" cock. Wants hot white big bottom 21-39, who love getting fucked by a big cock. ☎ 6820

Coupling Sex Buddy Wanted
Topman needs bottom. Oral give /take, lots of hugs and kisses too. Me: attract, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250lbs. brown hair/moustache, hairy chest/stomach. You: attrac GM (white, Asian, Latin), slim, nice buns, smooth/moderate bodyhair. ☎ 6822

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

Tell Me 2 Get On My Knees And Suck
You sir! Bottom boy bm/blu sexy/smooth. Takes direction from goodlooking guys 20's/40's, hung cowboys, hispanics, Latinos A plus. Straight, wanna kickback definately plus. S 6823

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This hot, hung, orally talented insomniac will get you off! Immediate call back. Smooth & hung preferred. No chit chat, just hot sex. ☎ 6824

Hot & Horny Boy Next Door
Lookin' for some hot & horny bi/gwm 18-28 with strong sex drives for some wild times. Tall and lean A+. I'm attractive, blonde, 24yo/b, 5'7", 154# athletic and versatile. ☎ 6825

Regular Sex Buddy
For weekly (discrete)? pleasure, learning together. Extended intensified orgasm, tantra, mutual massage, frottage, oral, porn, versatile. Me: bi/wpm 50 5'10" 180# 8" You: 18-45(asian, hispanic, foreign a plus). ☎ 6826

You Hung Real Thick? Read On
Goodlooking man needs extra fat, cocks to lick, suck, kiss, worship. Rub it on my face while I tell you how big, thick and beautiful it is. Verbal A+. ☎ 6827

GBM Oral Expert
36 6'2" 162lb. Tall, thin, earthy, cycling, "Fit". Gardening, yoga, spiritual, traveling, individual ISO similar men with big cut equipment. S 6828

Experience Masseurs
To massage attractive, smooth Asian male. I want every inch of my nude body massaged with oil-buns, chest, cock, balls. ☎ 6829

Quench My Thirst
Looking for guys who want to get on my knees and piss in my mouth. GWM, 58, 5'10", 165lbs. ☎ 6821

A1 Oral Service Delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6' handsome, delivers complete oral service to guys who dig getting sucking off. Prefer trim, mature, no reciprocation. ☎ 6830

ISO Preppies
WLM 40, 6', 155lbs, ISO dominant, preppie/yuppie/exec types, who want to be orally serviced all over. Kink optional. Direct meetings only-no games. S & M, pain, gay scene. ☎ 6541

Wrestle-Play, Anyone?
Let's get out of our heads & into our bodies. Sweat as we playfully struggle to submission wearing jocks, speedos, nothing. I'm lean, muscular, 6'2", 168. You're hairy, skinny to muscular, g/bi WM. Any height. ☎ 6542

Are You ISO: 24/ 7 Total Slave?
GL/GWM 38, 195, 6'11" in S.F. ISO: Handsome, dominant, aggressive, demanding GWM master 6ft. plus for 24/7 ownership. Training, W/S, B/D, humiliation, public scenes, & cage confinement. Masters desired & crotch to be my universe, No B.S. ☎ 6543

Whipping Boy Wanted
By dominant leather top. UB, fit, masculine, white, 28-45yo, prefer at least 5'10" tall. I am 6ft, 210, hairy, muscular, 56yo with dungeon & lots of toys. ☎ 6653

Pantyhose And Tights Lovers
Let a hot masculine man work your hungry tits with his hands, mouth, pumps and toys. I'm great at what I do. ☎ 6545

Jackoff Showoff Need An Ap?
Devoted to pleasing yourself? Love demonstrating your expertise in windows for worshipful neighbors? Need an SF ap? If your Asian or GWM, 30's or 40's, let's talk. ☎ 6546

FeetSheerSocksdressShoes Thongs
Attractive Latino 32, 5'11" 190, Central American, size 12 shoe, n/s, virgo, would like to meet Latins or Whites. Into same fetish. Under 37. N/S only. No games. ☎ 6832

Attention Gay Men Need A Wife?
Attractive 44yo SWF Lesbian ISO a gay man that needs a wife for show only. No sex. Living & financial arrangements to be discussed. Marriage for citizenship also. So Co. pref. ☎ 6553

Jerk Off Buddy
Love those dicks. Come and shoot your load if your 21 to 50 Black, Latin, Indian, Greek, or French. ☎ 6554

Need A Travel Buddy??
Masculine GWM hates to vacation alone. Looking for other masculine men to travel with. Age, race, not important. P-town, Montreal, Europe, Pr, etc. ☎ 6655

Gentlemen
Gentleman is wanted by older sybaritic country square type. You'll be bent over occasionally. Otherwise gracious. ☎ 6656

A very Specific Fantasy
GWM seeks young, smooth Chinese boy(long haired+) who smokes non-filtered cigarettes and is into heavy mutual J/O scenes. Are you out there? ☎ 6547

Seeking Bondage
Bottom seeks top into safe bondage scenes. GWM, 41, 5'8", 155, good looking, athletic, BD, TT, CBT. I also switch. ☎ 6548

Fee! Fun! And Friendship!
Lifelong attraction to men's barefoot. Crave mutual barefoot kissing, licking, smelling, caressing, toe wrestling. Roles, fantasies, J/O, E.B., sensual GWM w/ho ring, 5'9", trim, tan, hairy, HIV- seeks buddy. ☎ 6549

ISO Electric Toys
Mature GWM HIV- 120# horny, shaved ball; & 7 cock. Plus love my balls. My fantasy, having my balls massaged with electric. Fisting me at same time. I am eager and submissive, aroma, a plus. ☎ 6550

Achting, Blond Beasts & Others
Who look like Hitler's youths: If your asshole is a tootsie roll factory, let me watch you satisfy some chocolate addicts. ☎ 6551

Like It Sweaty, Wild & Kinky??
GWM, 30, 215lb. Want nasty scenes with couples seeking third. Husky, cigar smoking, HAIRY daddies with submissive boys. Any race, scene. Blacks A+. Verbal, sleazy! More info? call!!! ☎ 6646

Do You Give Good Deep Tongue?
Hot ass on sexy top needs expert exploration by fun rimmers. I am blond hung 8, inshape, goatee, hairy chest and looking for your mouth to hit the right spot. ☎ 6647

Insensitive Tits?
Get your nipples worked on in a bondage situation by a tall Master Daddy. Some mutual possible. Leave or take off. ☎ 6648

Tights R So Sensual & Erotic
GWM in Florida seeks S.F. friends who love to look feel of tight. Love Ballet/dancers. Manx98@yahoo.com . No cross dressers. ☎ 6649

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Sunnyvale blue collar tow truck driver scat bottom, skinhead, 28, Asian, looking to meet, twisted tops, top flagging and anal paddle freaks, Cholos, guys in derby jackets/ Ben Davis/ uniforms. No fakers. ☎ 6652

Whipping Boy Wanted
By dominant leather top. UB, fit, masculine, white, 28-45yo, prefer at least 5'10" tall. I am 6ft, 210, hairy, muscular, 56yo with dungeon & lots of toys. ☎ 6653

A Little Humiliation
Cleancut, well-proportioned Prof male, 40, (strictly dominant) seeks cleancut, athletic guy to call my "whore"/"bitch"/"cum" while fucking both his holes. Safe/discrete ONLY. ☎ 6729

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GWM 42 5'10", 175 lbs br br ISO bondage bottoms masochists. Safe flogging, bondage, 11, cbt, hot wax, etc. Must be willing to endure discomfort and some pain. ☎ 6544

Huge Nipples For Tit Pig
Let a hot masculine man work your hungry tits with his hands, mouth, pumps and toys. I'm great at what I do. ☎ 6730

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Attractive 44yo SWF Lesbian ISO a gay man that needs a wife for show only. No sex. Living & financial arrangements to be discussed. Marriage for citizenship also. So Co. pref. ☎ 6553

Piss And More Piss Wanted
On and in me. Bottom or versatile. Like it off your body, front or rear. ☎ 6731

Big Cut Cocks Wanted
Cute GWM wants to suck young cocks. Prefer fit men between 18-35. I am 30 and ready. ☎ 6732

Slave Boy Search Of Dog Training
A 26yo/ extremely cute and submissive boy from Europe needs to have a complete dog training by a cute and very demanding master under 35. ☎ 6727

Scat Top
Dominant, hairy, muscular leather daddy, 5'11" 185, likes submissive, hungry bottom dudes to lie under my rim chair and suck my ss. ☎ 6831

I've Got The Rope...
Do you have the balls? Bondage top, 41, 5'8", 155, good looking, ISO submissive, obedient, masculine, in-shape bottom, 25-45, for bondage play. Safe, discreet, SF, East Bay. ☎ 6833

Let's Bare Our Soles!
Lifelong attraction to men's barefoot. Crave mutual barefoot kissing, licking, smelling, toe wrestling. Roles, fantasies, J/O, E.B., sensual GWM w/ho ring, 5'9", trim, tan, hairy, HIV- loves barefoot! ☎ 6834

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Hot, hard bare butt spankings with hand or paddle. In shape top, will give you what you need. ☎ 6835

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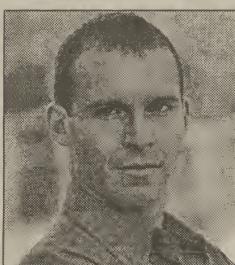
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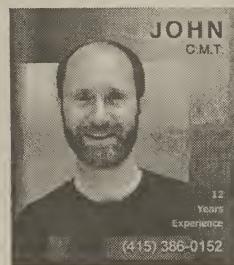
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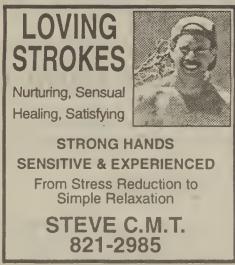


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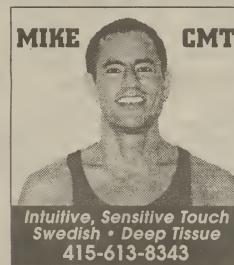


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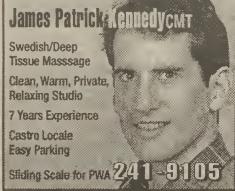
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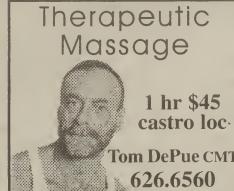
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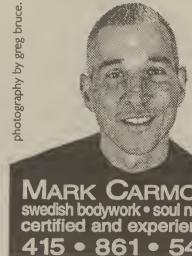
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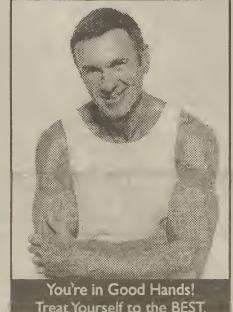
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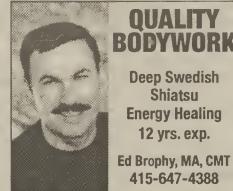
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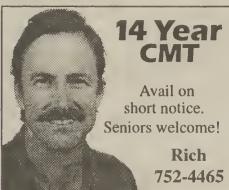
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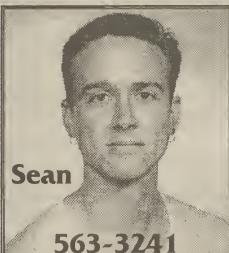
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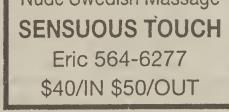
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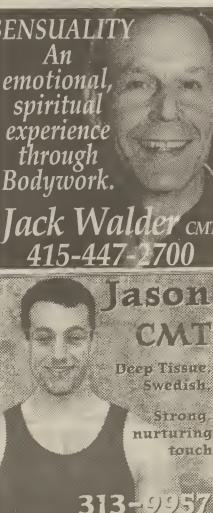
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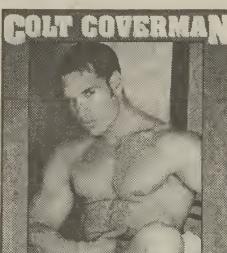
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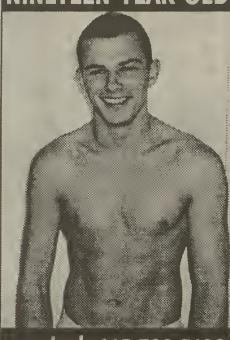
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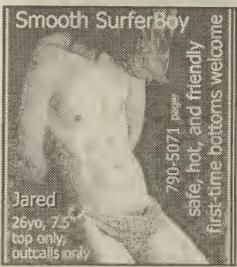
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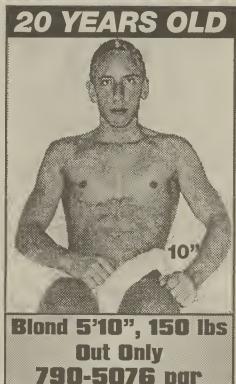
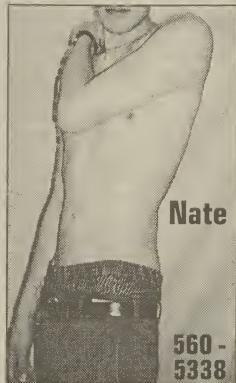
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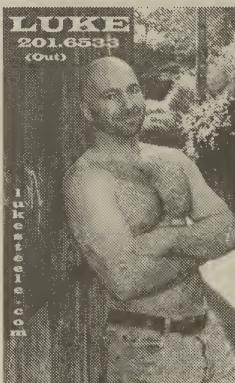
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**TO LARRY RAY M.
(TEXAS)**

Truth will send you free. You can
not run away from yourself.

RENE G. - I MISS YOU.

Rene95@aol.com

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in Seattle. We met several years ago
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Pac Bell in downtown SF. I moved to
Seattle 6 yrs ago. Give a call: Dave
(206) 322-5128

**TO: LARRY RAY
MC FARLAND (TEXAS)**
March 27, 1999
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
I wish you'd stop running away from
the ones that love you and liberate
yourself from your own hell. I miss
you so much. Rene G.-
Rene95@aol.com

The Dark Side



10pm
Greg DeJong
DJ
18th & Castro
San Francisco, CA
415.431.4278

Thirstyday

PEOPLE

Exhibitionist Garage

If you like to get hard, show off and watch or play with other guys who like the same, try out the Garage at the

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Garage open every night 8pm-12m except Mon and Thu.

Cool lighting, huge show-off space. In addition, adjoining video theater features 3 continuous porno screens and is open every day 10am-12m.

Unlike many clubs nearby, the Circle J is safe, clean, friendly and relaxed. Not a cruise bar disguised as a sex club, we're designed for guys who like to show off and watch others show it off. Must check street clothes Tue & Fri (underwear OK); Clothes check also available other nights. Adm \$8

Circle J Club 369 Ellis SF
415-474-6995 Metro: Powell

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E20

E12

E13

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